TETSUYA TSUTSUI

PROPHECY

01

TETSUYA TSUTSUI
PROPHECY
01

C O N T E N T S

File001 3

File002 37

File003 69

File004 97

File005 131

File006 163

File007 190

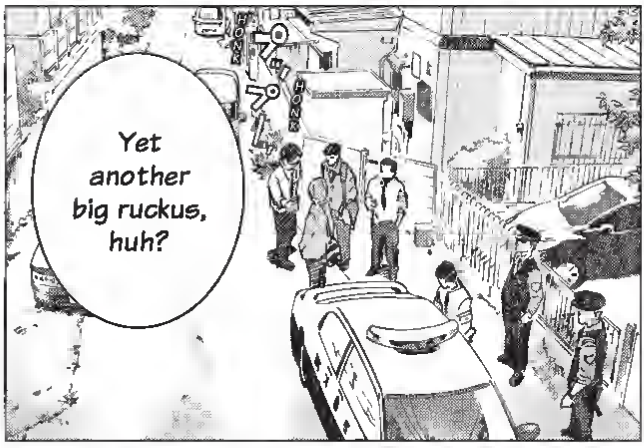
* This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to persons, groups, or events is purely coincidental.

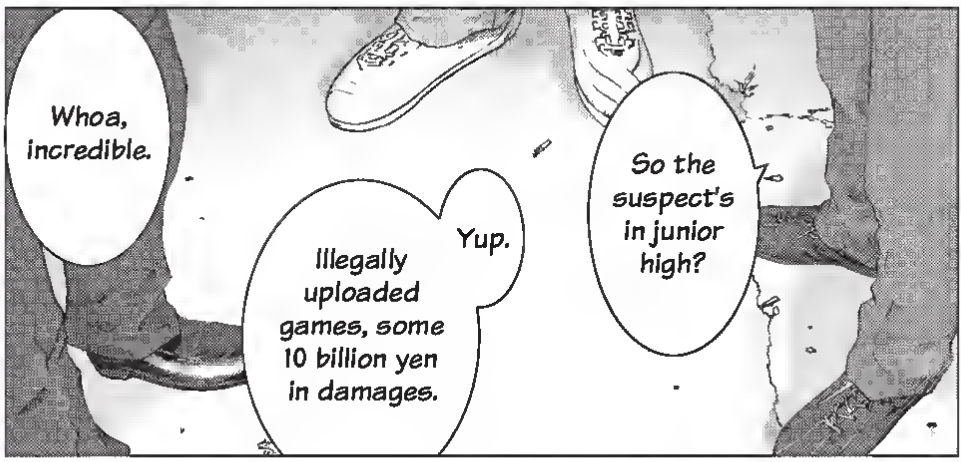
File
001

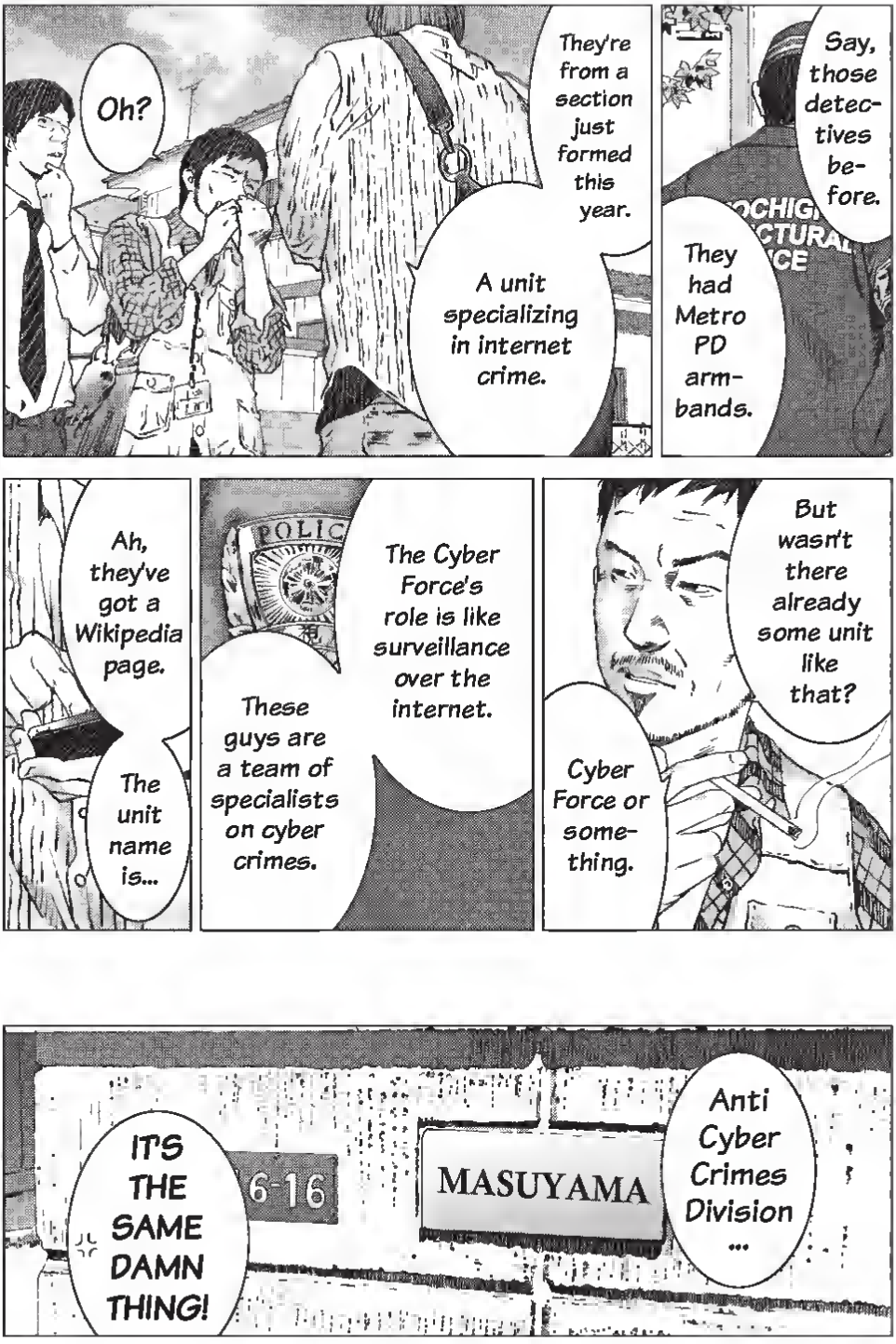
I'm not doing this for my own benefit.
Don't get me wrong.
100 yen for every additional 15 minutes.
1700 yen for the 6-hour "night pack."
en flagged as spam 15 minutes ago
en flagged as spam 15 minutes ago
en flagged as spam. 15 minutes ago
leted 20 minutes ago
leted 25 minutes ago
File (F) Edit (E)
Favorites
FILE003
25-square foot dorm with free drink refills
I'm going to change the world.
From this cramped, sweaty

What am I trying to pull?
Just shut up and watch.
a national disgrace
20 MINUTES
What's this jerk on abou
20 M
This comment has been fla
20 MINU
This comment has been fla
20 MINU
What the fuck u tryna pull
20 MI
Here's my warning for tomorrow.
CAUTIO
Watch your belongings

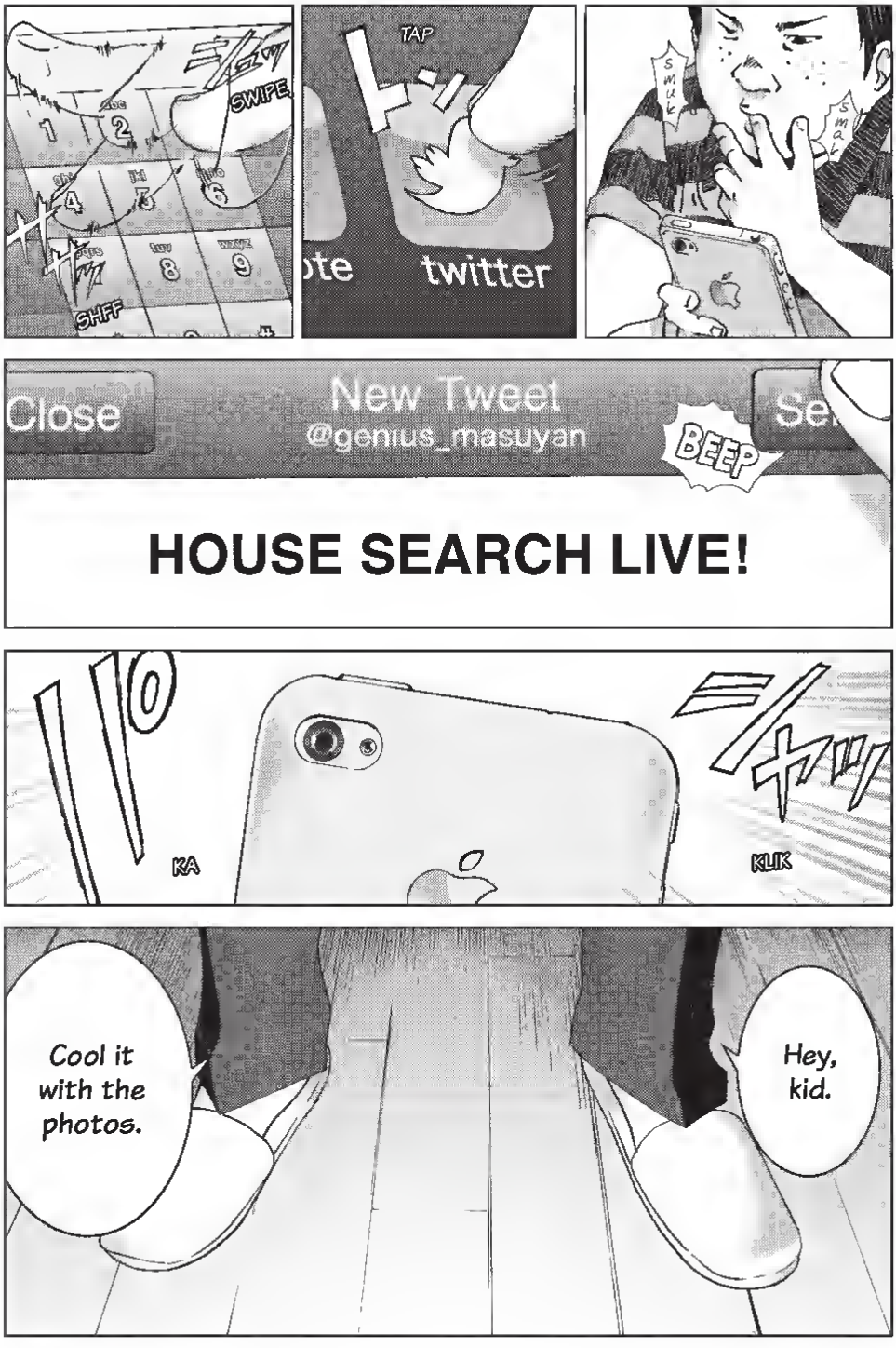
May 21, 10:00
U CITY, TOCHIGI PREFECTURE


Yet another big ruckus, huh?


Whoa, incredible.
Yup.
Illegally uploaded games, some 10 billion yen in damages.
So the suspect's in junior high?


Oh?
They're from a section just formed this year.
A unit specializing in internet crime.
Say, those detectives before.
They had Metro PD armbands.
Ah, they've got a Wikipedia page.
The unit name is...
These guys are a team of specialists on cyber crimes.
The Cyber Force's role is like surveillance over the internet.
But wasn't there already some unit like that?
Cyber Force or something.
IT'S THE SAME DAMN THING!
6-16
MASUYAMA
Anti Cyber Crimes Division ...

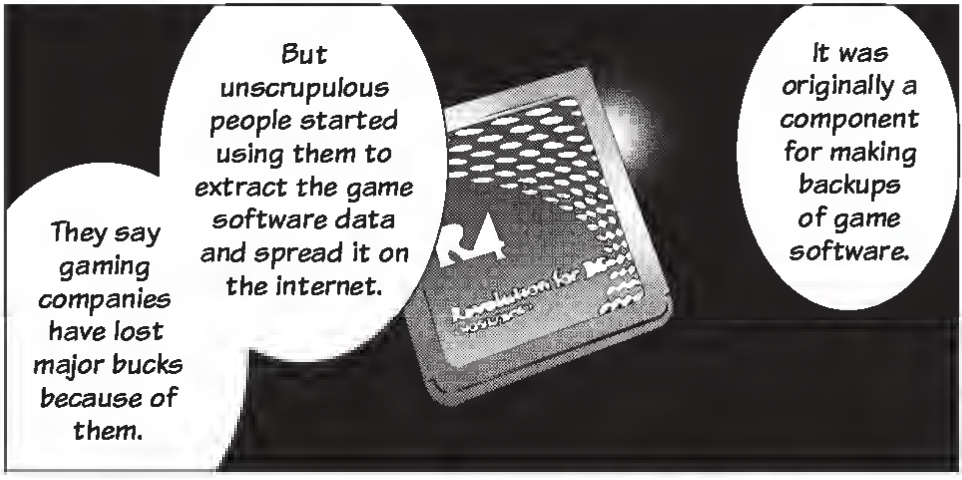
TOCHIGI PREFECTURAL POLICE
Mobile game devices, computers, external storage devices.
Seize all of it, please.
Sir !
KSHIK
KSHIK
NZOH
NZOH
NZOH


SWIPE
SHFF
TAP
twitter
SMAK
SMAK
Close
New Tweet
@genius_masuyan
BEEP
HOUSE SEARCH LIVE!
KA
KLIK
Cool it with the photos.
Hey, kid.

Illegally uploading game software.
That's a violation of copyright law.
Metropolitan Police Department
Anti Cyber Crimes Division
ERIKA YOSHINO
Shota Masu-yama.
You do realize you're a suspect, right ?
Specifically, Article 23 of the Copyright Act:
Infringe-ment of author's public trans-mission rights.
"Don't rip game data without permission and release it to the world, you complete jackass."
Put simply, it says...

A game copier.
Yeah.
This is one of those things?
Hey, Ichikawa.
Same Division
MANABU ICHIKAWA
Same Division
DAIKI OKAMOTO

Oh.
DROP

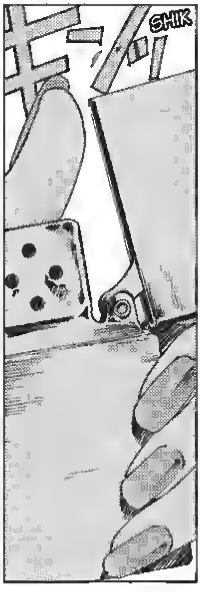

They say gaming companies have lost major bucks because of them.
But unscrupulous people started using them to extract the game software data and spread it on the internet.
It was originally a component for making backups of game software.

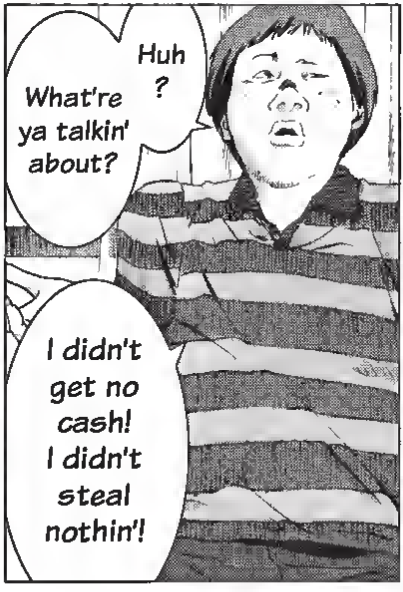
Hmf.
Damn, kids these days...

but with more than a million already sold, the situation's totally out of hand.
Thanks to pressure from the Ministry of Finance, importing copiers is already banned,

Roughly 45 billion yen in damages
caused by downloads from your site.

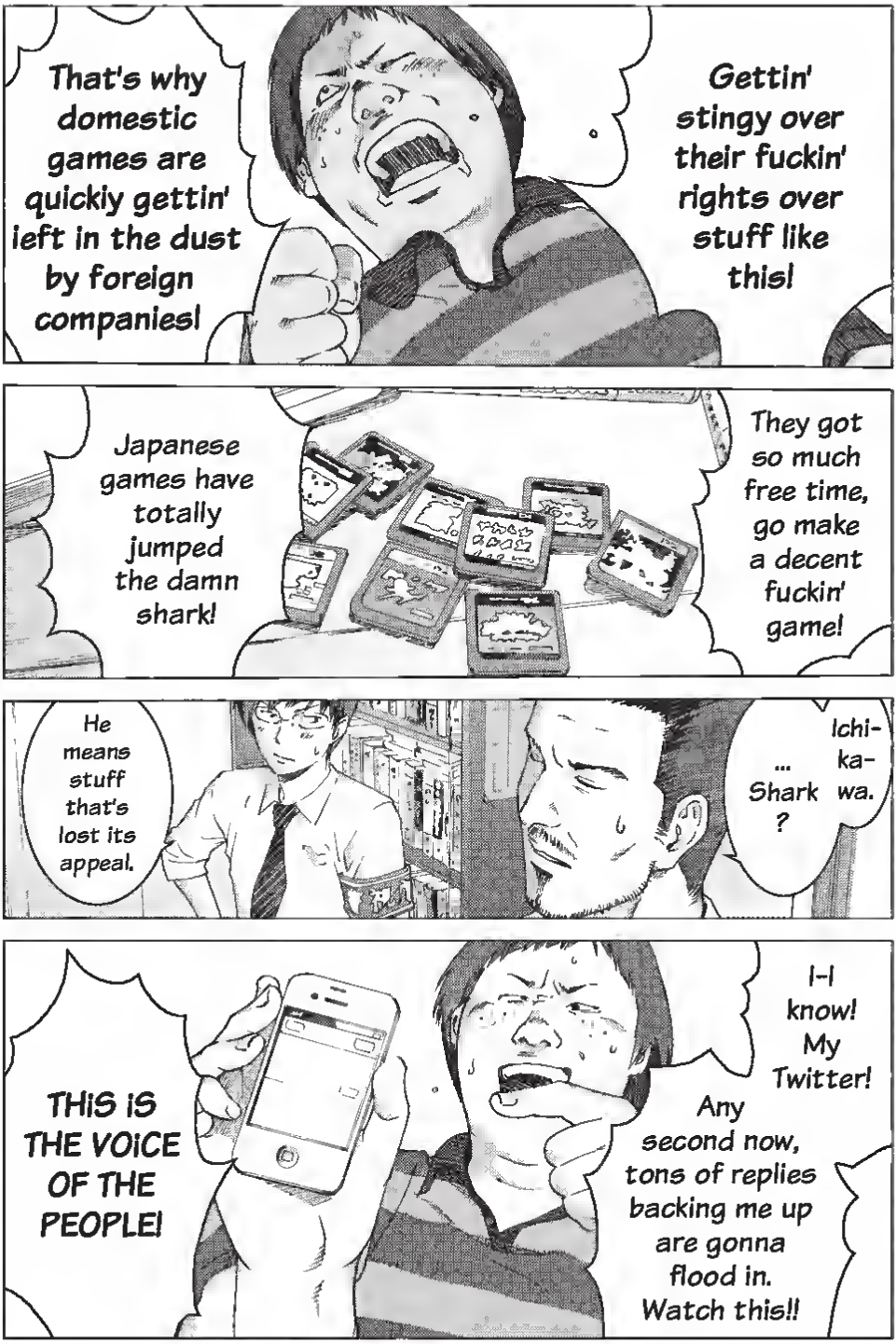
But you got loads of "pin money," didn't you?


SHIK


Huh ?
What're ya talkin' about?
I didn't get no cash! I didn't steal nothin'!

with affiliate ads.
Your blog is totally plastered
My readers just send me stuff on their own!
Th...
THAT...
I-I do this as a volunteer!
And you got all these.
That's right! A volun-teer!
I adver-tize their games for them!
A volun-teer.

The swine's blabbing ...
THERE ARE PLENTY OF GAMES LIKE THAT, WHERE WORD-OF-MOUTH MADE 'EM HITS, RIGHT?
IF THE GAME'S ANY GOOD, CUSTOMERS'LL HAPPILY PAY MONEY TO BUY IT!
It's the stupid game company's fault for making a crappy game!!
that ain't my fault!
If a game's sales go down
WHY THE HELL DO THE COPS GOTTA DO WHATEVER THE SHITTY GAME MAKERS SAY?!
LIKE I SAID!! THAT'S TOTALLY WRONG !!
SMASH!
but when a game company actually files a complaint ...
we can't just sit on our hands, now, can we?
What you say may be quite true,


That's why domestic games are quickly gettin' left in the dust by foreign companies!
Gettin' stingy over their fuckin' rights over stuff like this!
Japanese games have totally jumped the damn shark!
They got so much free time, go make a decent fuckin' game!
He means stuff that's lost its appeal.
Ichi-ka-wa.
... Shark?
I-I know! My Twitter!
Any second now, tons of replies backing me up are gonna flood in. Watch this!!
THIS IS THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE!

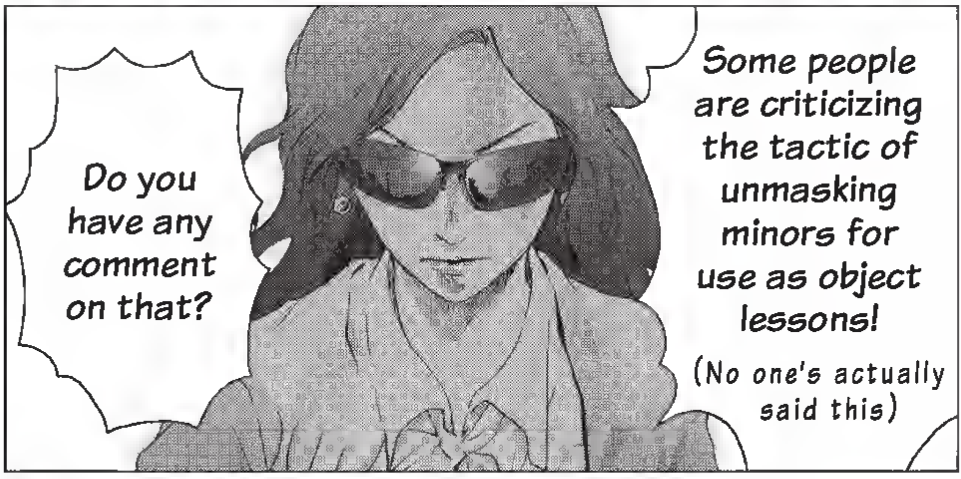
You know a lot.
but owning one isn't a problem.
For sure, there are restrictions on importing copiers,
There's no way copying a game for private use is illegal.
If this new anti internet crime squad is hunting down minors with copiers ...
Well, to be honest, I think they're over-stepping.
Yeah, I hear they're real popular with kids now.
Pestered me for it for his birthday.
My kid's got one.
No way !
Ha ha ha!
Rumor has it even National Diet MPs let their own families use them!
Let's see ...
Well, that was fast.
Ooh !
This seems to be the suspect's Twitter account.
Here we go!
Oh.

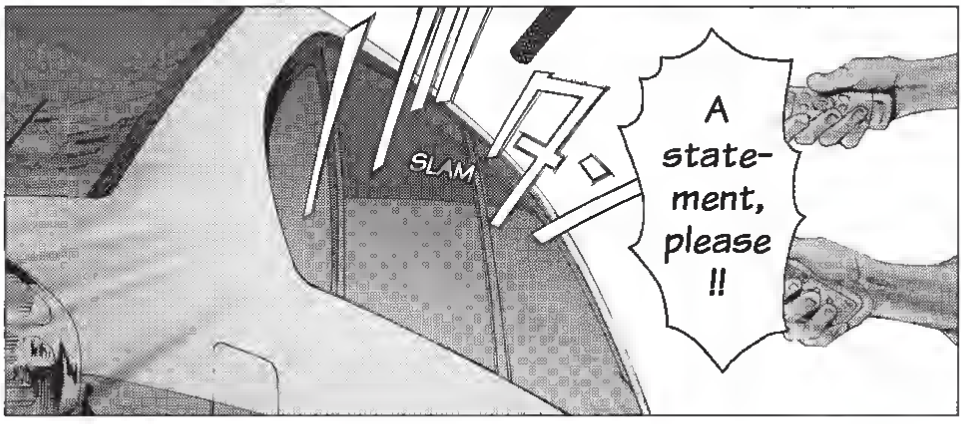
Why, they're treating you just like a god. Look at all these tributes pouring in.
Satisfying, was it?
@genius_masu
LMFAO
LMFAO.
@genius_
u deser
@genius
Copie
You deserve it.
@genius
(^Д^) Gah
Copier freak arrested. Schadenfreude FTW.
us_masuya
lolz
Repe
Gah ...
@genius
d it c
Take that.
Repent in juvie, you little shit.
ius_masu
igation
genius_masu
Everyone's just flip-flopped, and now they're laughing at you. How's that feel?
...

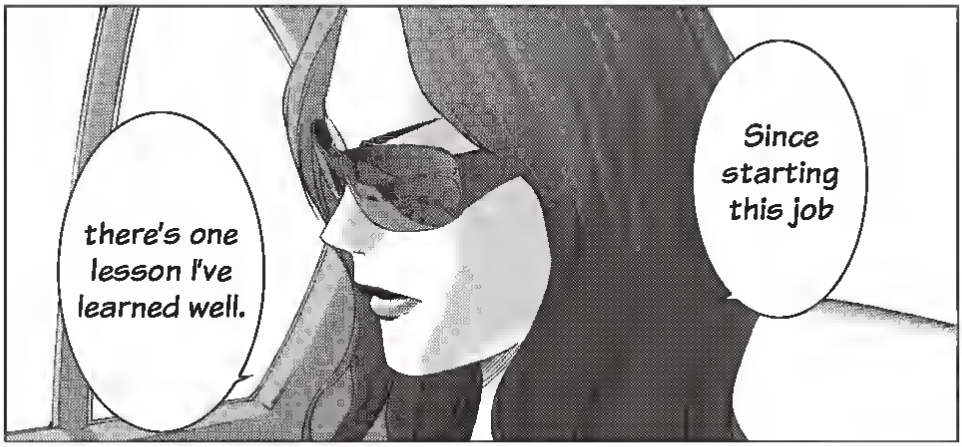
Seems like some people have the wrong idea. But don't worry.
Why... those jerks ... ... Shit ...!
Ung ... gh ...! Uuuhh...
However, I would like to express one opinion, if I may.
No one's going to ship you off to juvie or a reformatory.
I'D LOVE TO NAB EVERY LITTLE SNOT LIKE YOU,
TOSS YOU INTO A CELL
AND BEAT YOU UNTIL YOU TWISTED BASTARDS GOT STRAIGHT-ENED OUT!

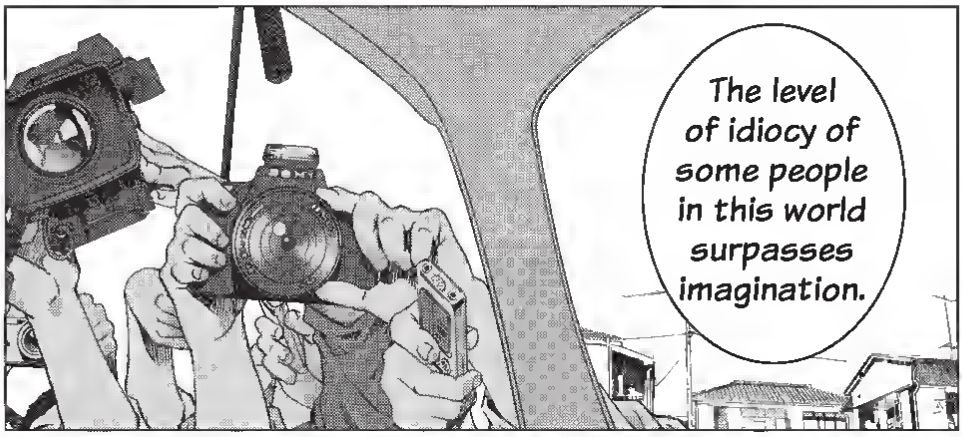
PAT
45 billion yen.
You'll be getting a damage claim from the game company and a court-issued subpoena shortly.
Best have a talk with your parents about how to pay for it.
Well, you'll probably need about 10 lifetimes to earn enough.
So hang in there, kid!
WHU
MP

A com-ment, sir!
Move! Make way!
Could we have a statement, please?
Come on, don't push!

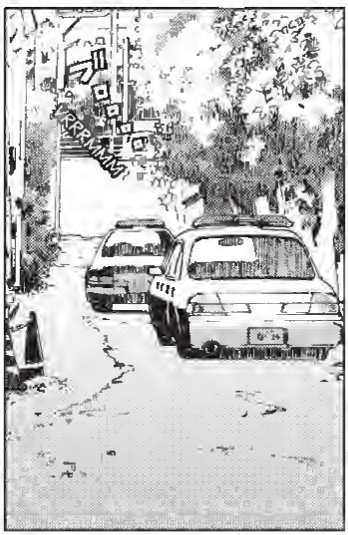

Do you have any comment on that?
Some people are criticizing the tactic of unmasking minors for use as object lessons!
(No one's actually said this)


SLAM
A state-ment, please !!


Since starting this job
there's one lesson I've learned well.

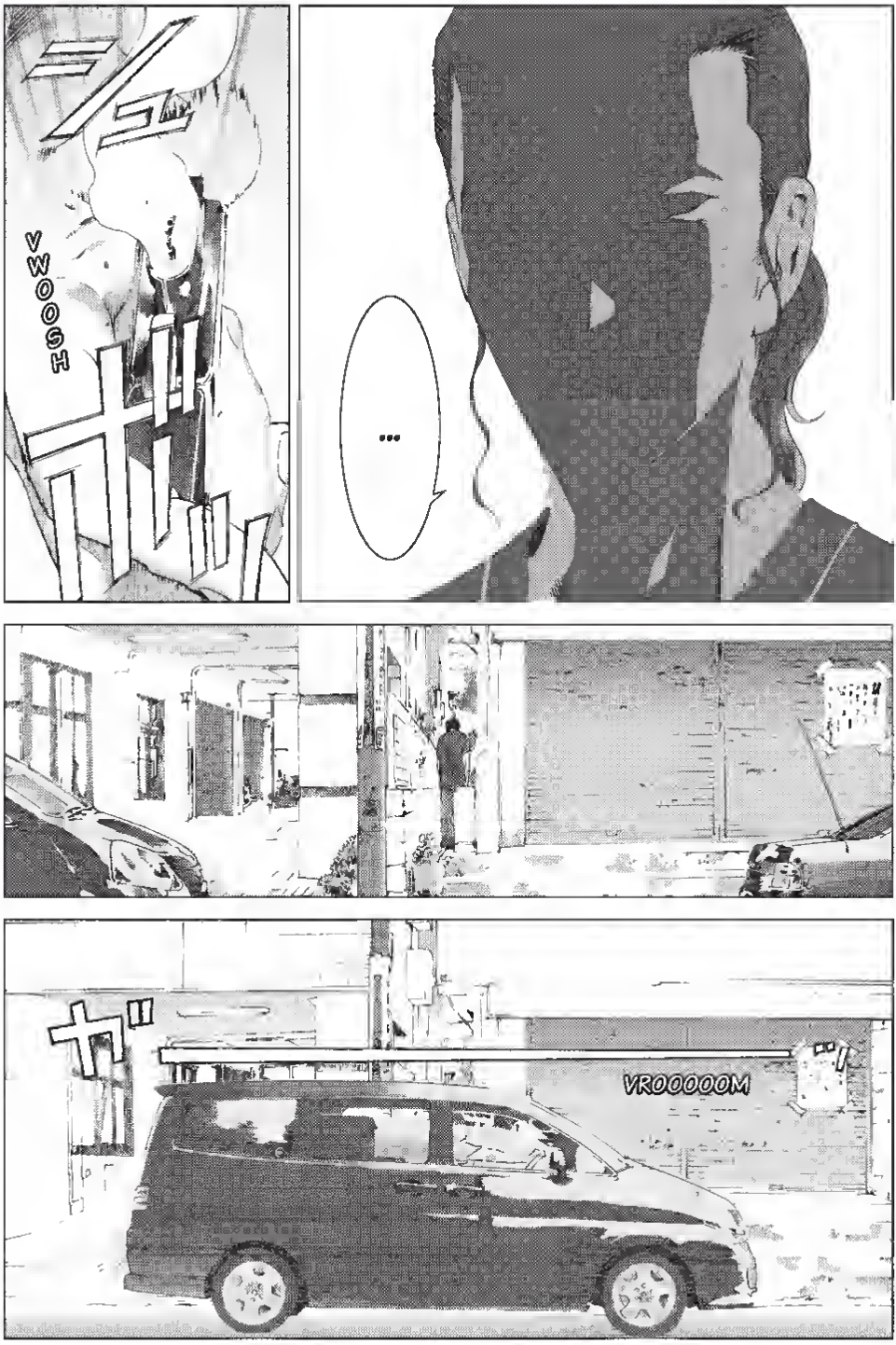

The level of idiocy of some people in this world surpasses imagination.

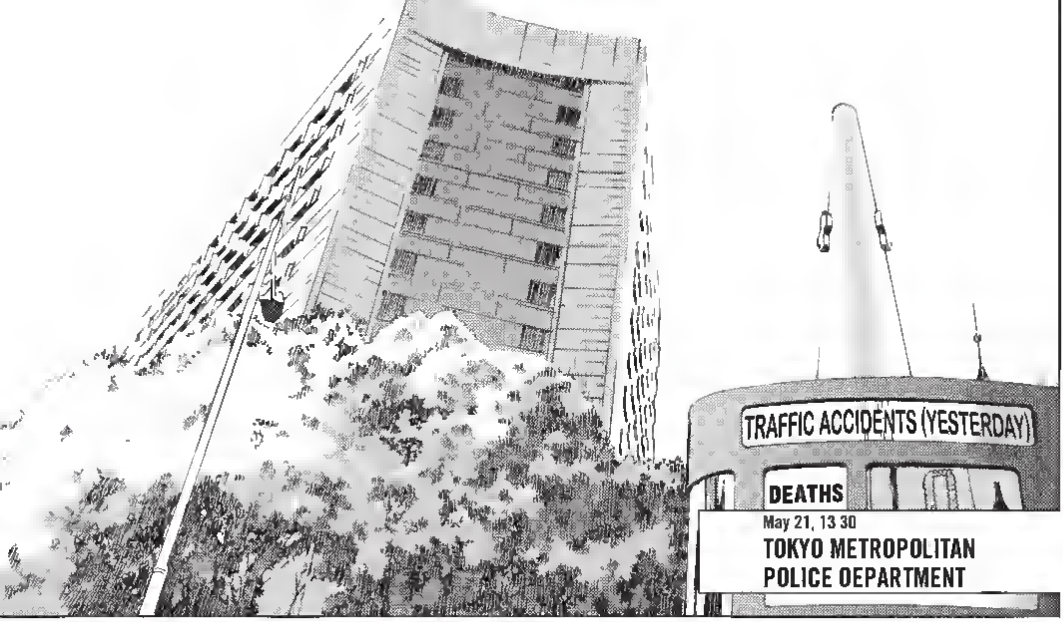
But she sure is pretty!
She's pretty frosty, eh.
Sheesh.

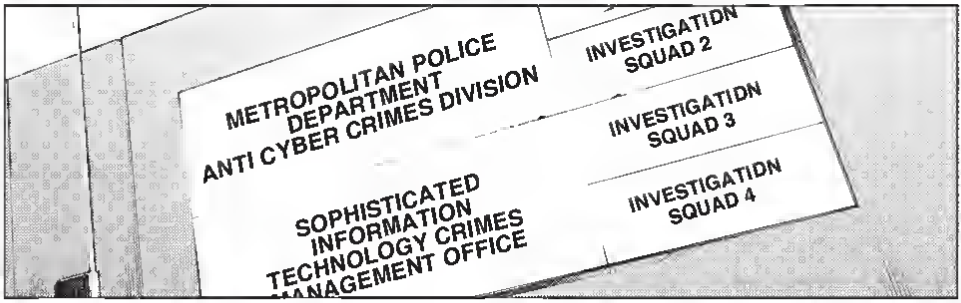

VRRMMM

Oh ho.
Erika Yoshi-no.
Seems that woman was a lieutenant, age 26.
So that was that cyber-something squad, huh?
Anti Cyber Crimes Division.
Though I wonder if a lady like her is cut out for it.
Sounds pretty fast to me.
Lieutenant at 26? Quite a feat!
But she sure is pretty ...
Haha!
In that case she was a bit too surly, wasn't she?
Maybe they're trying to charm the media?
Been lots of cop scandals lately.

ピーピーピー
ピーピーピー
ピーピーピー


VWOOSH
...
VROOOOOM

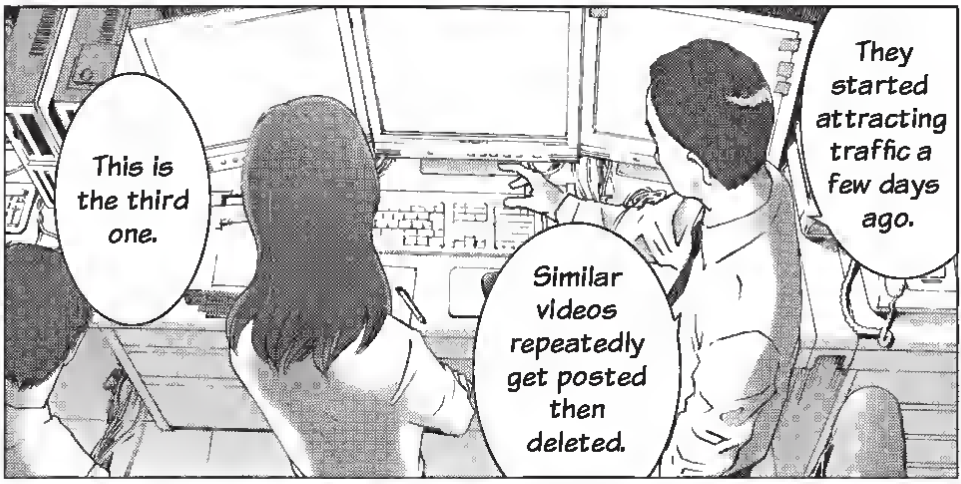

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (YESTERDAY)
DEATHS
May 21, 13 30
TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

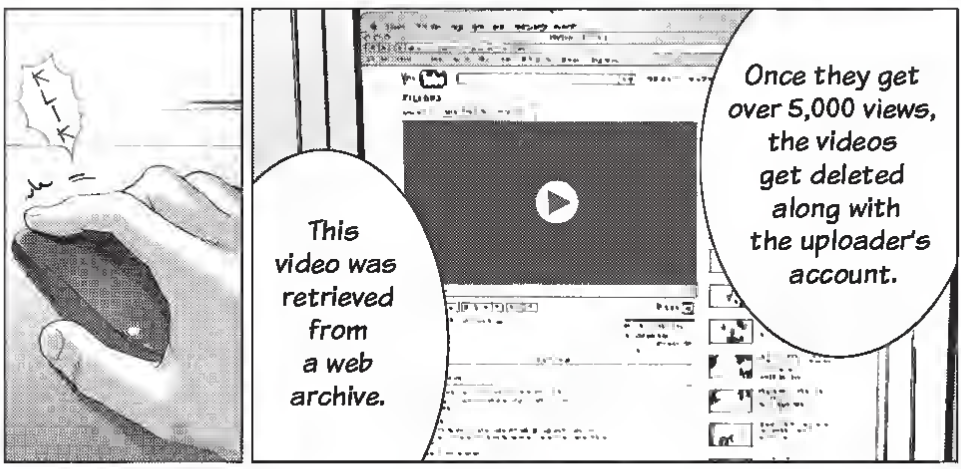

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANTI CYBER CRIMES DIVISION
INVESTIGATION SQUAD 2
INVESTIGATION SQUAD 3
INVESTIGATION SQUAD 4
SOPHISTICATED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CRIMES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

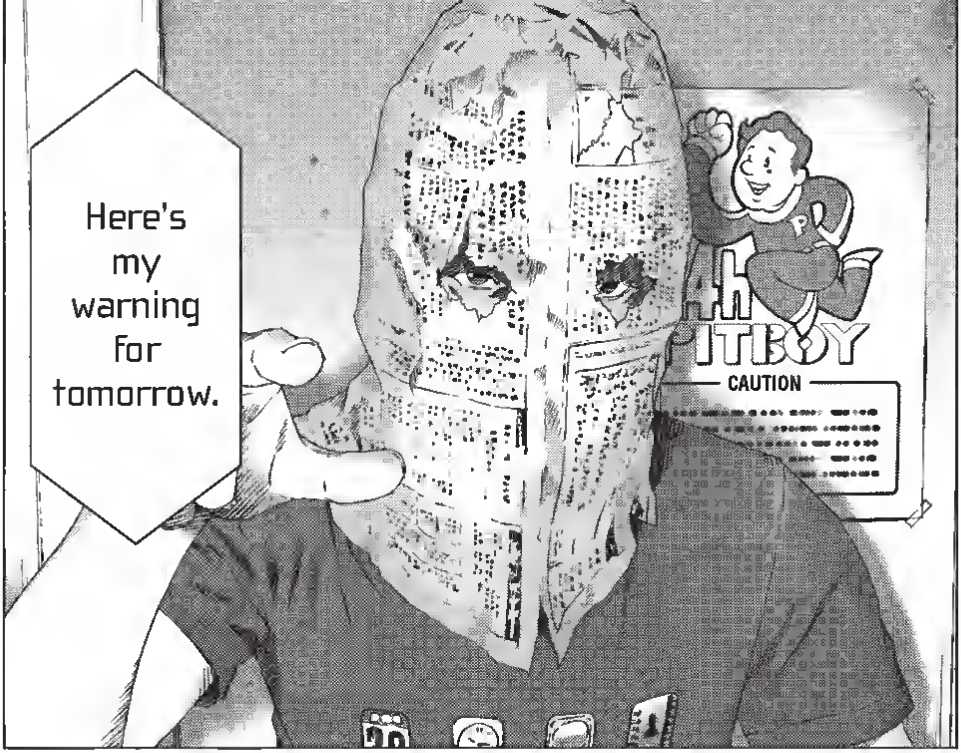
Ah!
Lieu-tenant Yoshi-no!
Cyber Force is calling for you!

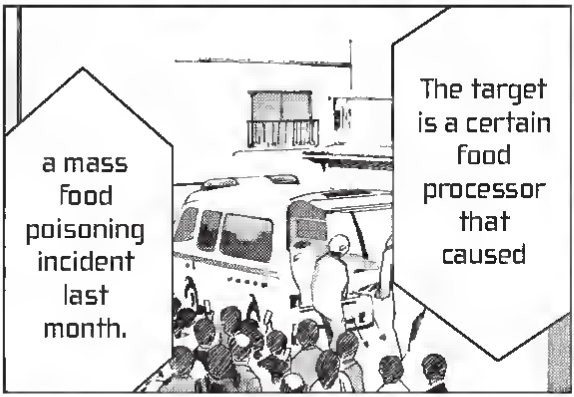
KA
KLATCH

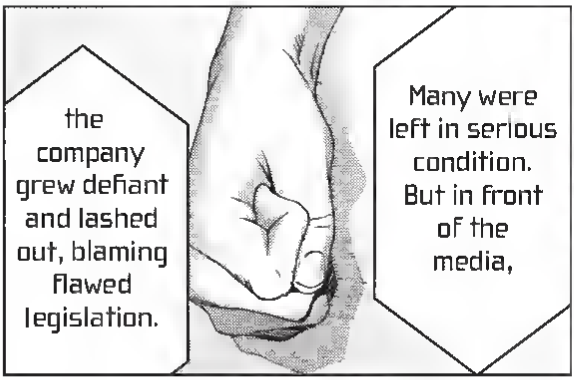
Weird videos on Yourtube ?

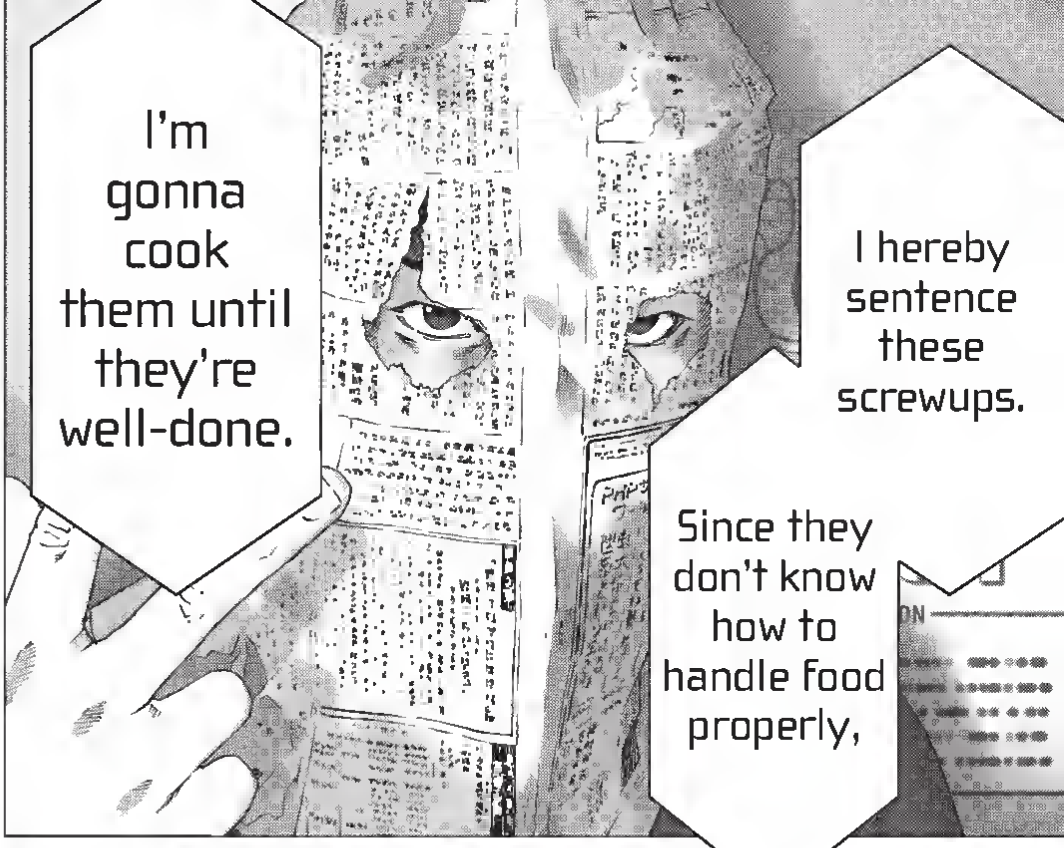

This is the third one.
Similar videos repeatedly get posted then deleted.
They started attracting traffic a few days ago.

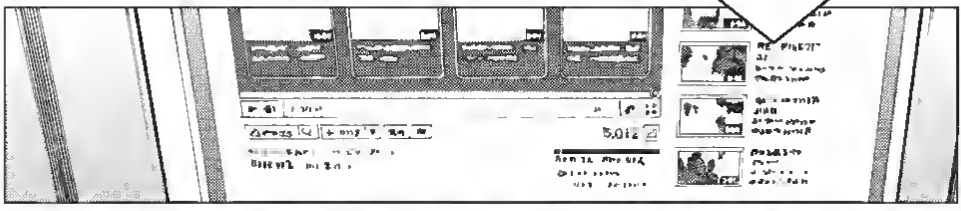

カチッ
This video was retrieved from a web archive.
Once they get over 5,000 views, the videos get deleted along with the uploader's account.

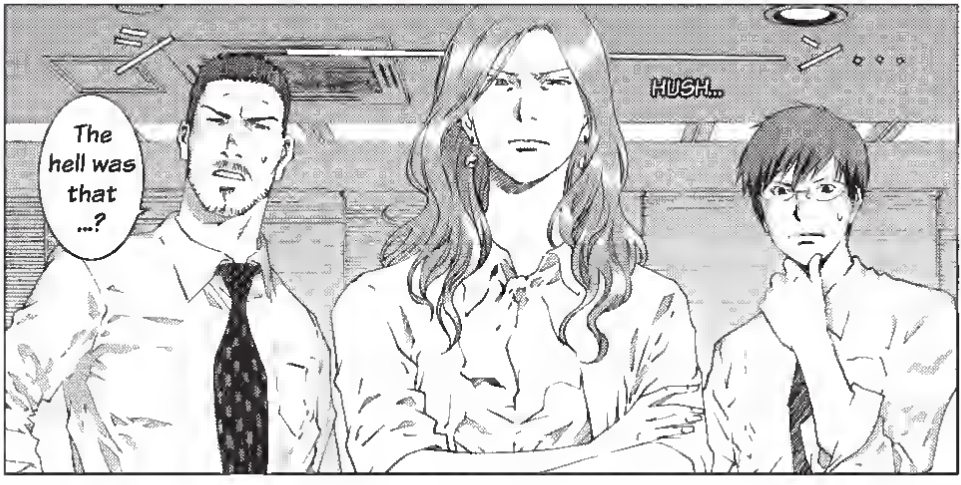

Here's my warning for tomorrow.
PITBOY
CAUTION


a mass food poisoning incident last month.
The target is a certain food processor that caused


the company grew defiant and lashed out, blaming flawed legislation.
Many were left in serious condition. But in front of the media,


I'm gonna cook them until they're well-done.
I hereby sentence these screwups.
Since they don't know how to handle food properly,




The hell was that ...?
HUSH...

He seems to keep reopening his account with a different number after the underscore each time.
paperboy_187
The poster's username was paperboy_1878.
Yes. It's definitely a match.
He might be trying to show he didn't record this ages ago.
Sort of like a time stamp.
I see.
That newspaper he had over his head.
That layout was from yesterday's morning edition, right?
Well ...
Analysis of the IP address will take a while...
Can you work out the location of the computer that he posted from?
Probably within the Kanto region.
Either Kanagawa or Saitama, I figure.

The poster in the background of the video.
Ichikawa.
That's the character mascot of a chain of internet cafés called Pit Boy.
They've only got locations in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama.
Why do you say that?
In Tokyo we have a municipal bylaw that requires users to present ID when using net cafés.
If you wanted to post a video like this,
it's only natural that you'd think to avoid locations in Tokyo, right?
I see.
But if this poster is just a fake, then all that means nothing.
So that leaves Kanagawa or Saitama.
For now we'd better check out all the Pit Boy branches.

Headline News
Fire at Food Processor in Ishikawa Prefecture
Wha ...
There's a TV crew... just happens to be on the scene...
Says they're broad-casting live...
What's up?
Fire...
at a food processor in Ishikawa ...
still not ...
Buffering...
Fire trucks ...!
Hurry ...!!
I'll connect to Iseg TV.

koff
koff!
covered in pitch black smoke !!
The entire area is covered ...
As you can see!

Whoa, whoa... it can't be...
That newspaper guy...?
Run! Run away!
HMF.
NOW HE'S GONE AND DONE IT.

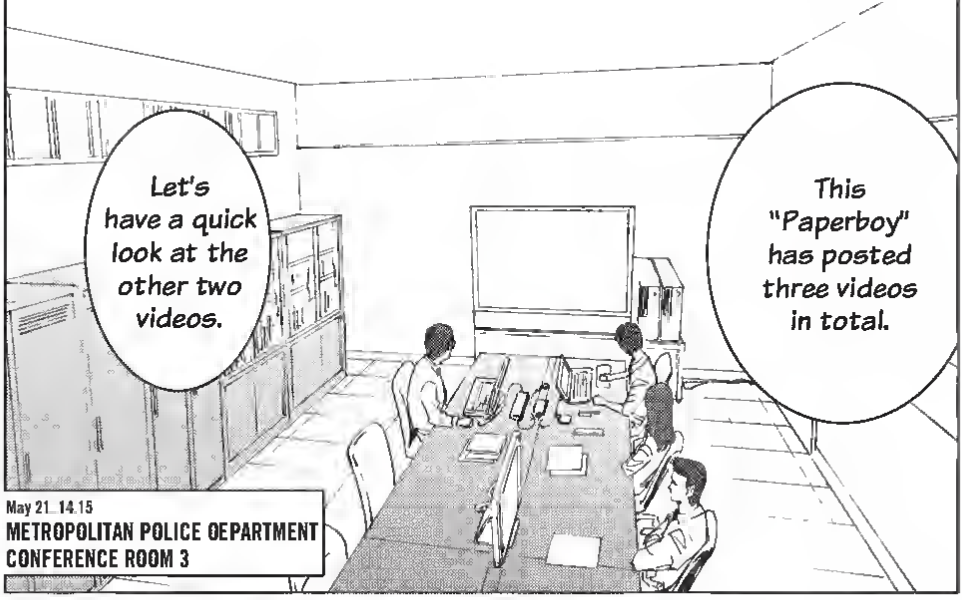
Wasn't that him?!
It's him !
Oka-moto !
Aah !
Aah ...!
In the crowd of onlookers ...!
Just now, for a second ...
Hey, Ichi-kawa !
Can you record this video?
Oh... Yeah !
Al-ready on it!

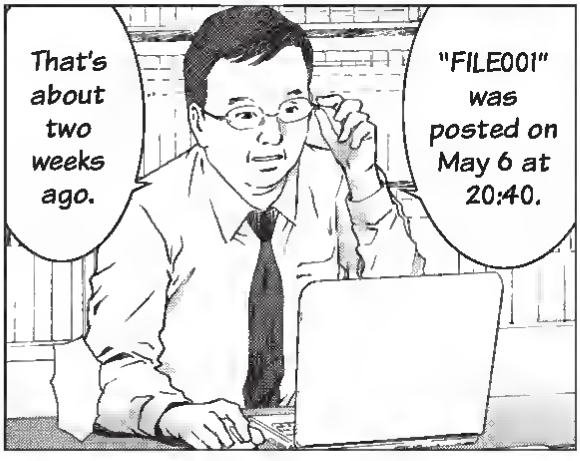
SO HERE WE HAVE
KRIK
KRAK
ANOTHER LITTLE MORON ...

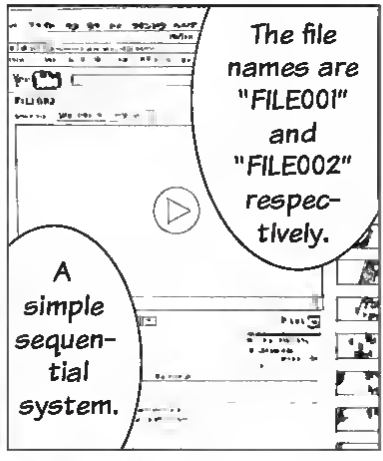
File
002

GRUB'S ALMOST READY.
HUNGRY ?
WHSK
WHSK
File
002

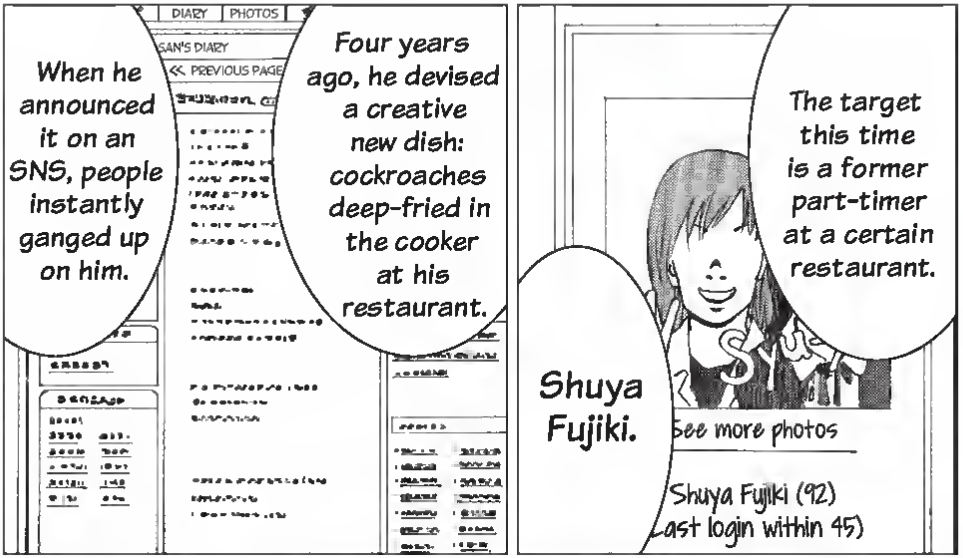
Mrrm!
KRAK
KRAK
Mmf!
KRAK
I'll let you have it soon enough ...
You wanted this, didn't you?
Whoa, there.
hiss
Don't rush me now.
Nnff!
Ffm!
HISS

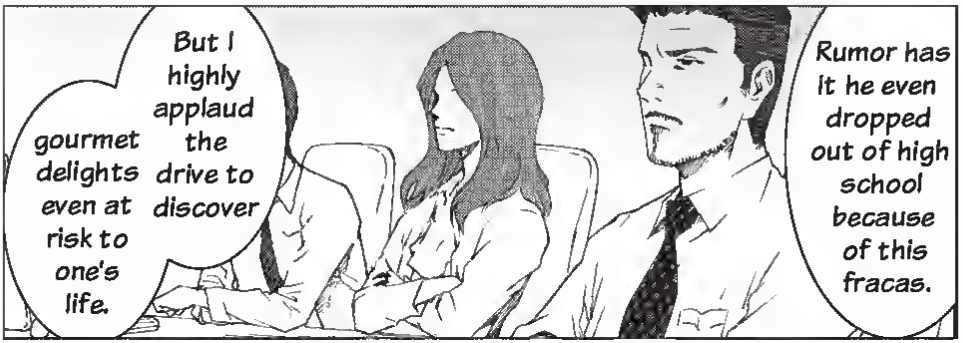

Let's have a quick look at the other two videos.
This "Paperboy" has posted three videos in total.
May 21. 14.15
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM 3

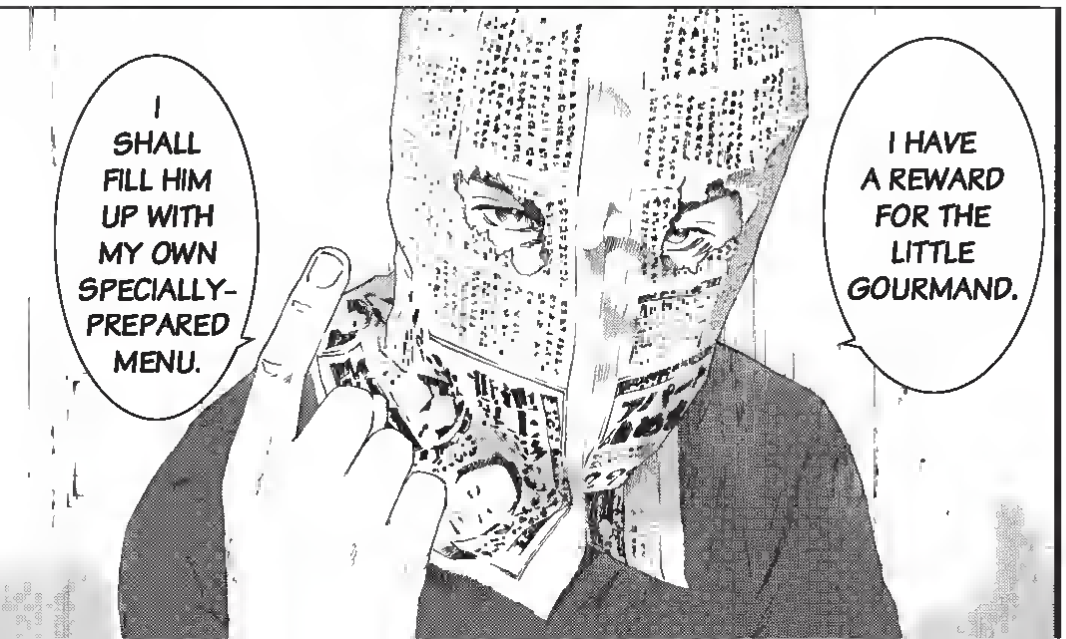

That's about two weeks ago.
"FILE001" was posted on May 6 at 20:40.


The file names are "FILE001" and "FILE002" respectively.
A simple sequential system.

Here's my warning for tomorrow.

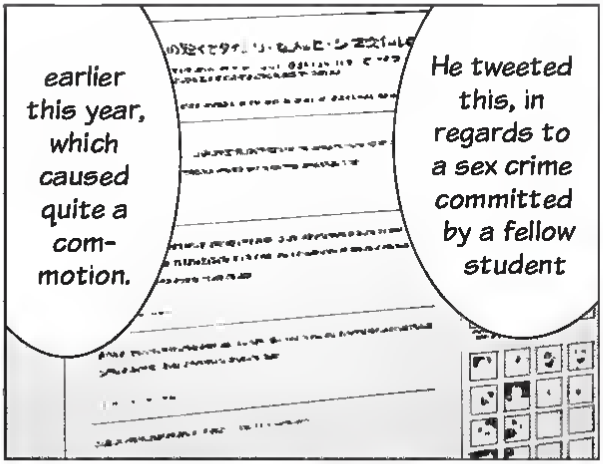

When he announced it on an SNS, people instantly ganged up on him.
Four years ago, he devised a creative new dish: cockroaches deep-fried in the cooker at his restaurant.
DIARY
PHOTOS
SAN'S DIARY
PREVIOUS PAGE
The target this time is a former part-timer at a certain restaurant.
Shuya Fujiki.
See more photos
Shuya Fujiki (92)
Last login within 45)

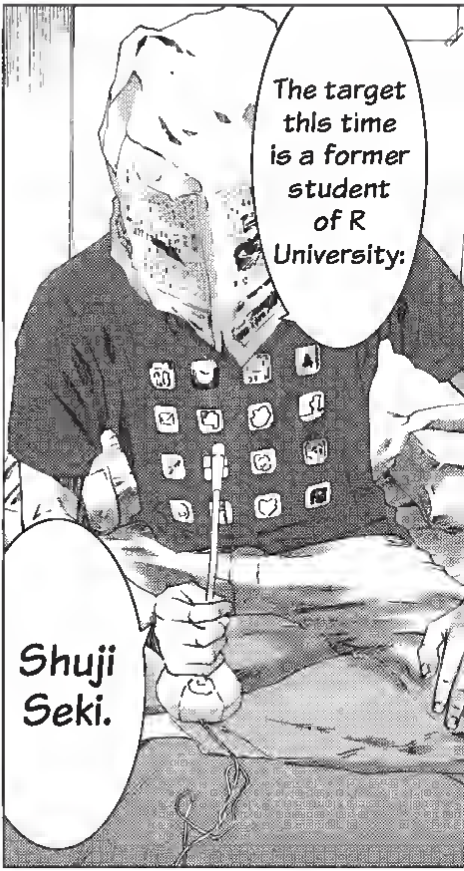

But I highly applaud the drive to discover gourmet delights even at risk to one's life.
Rumor has it he even dropped out of high school because of this fracas.

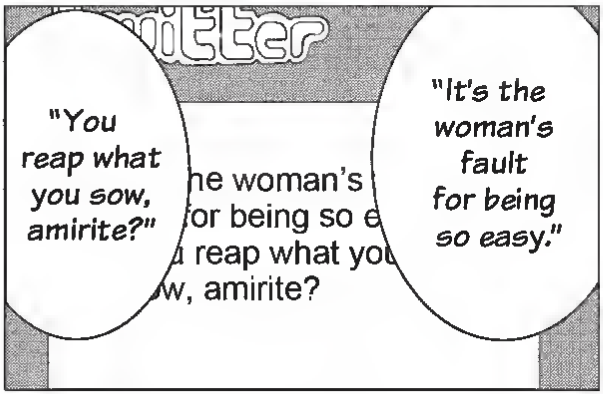

I SHALL FILL HIM UP WITH MY OWN SPECIALLY-PREPARED MENU.
I HAVE A REWARD FOR THE LITTLE GOURMAND.

There was definitely such a commotion four years ago.
The flame war was even covered by national newspapers.
You gotta be kidding me.
On the internet, if you post something that's just meant as a prank
It often escalates into an out-of-control commotion.
I just ...
My head hurts.
I don't get it.
And if you post on an SNS, people can instantly discover your identity.
After that incident, the restaurant where he worked and their HQ were deluged with irate phone calls, and some called for a boycott.
In the end the company published an apology statement on their website and that apparently resolved the matter.
EXCUSE

Apparently a video of the punishment was transmitted online via streaming video,
but there's no trace of it now.
So in the end what came of this threat?
Whoa! Missing?
I hope he's OK.
Let's look at "FILE 002."
The targeted student has not been in contact with his parents
and it would seem he's missing.
Here's my warning for tomorrow.

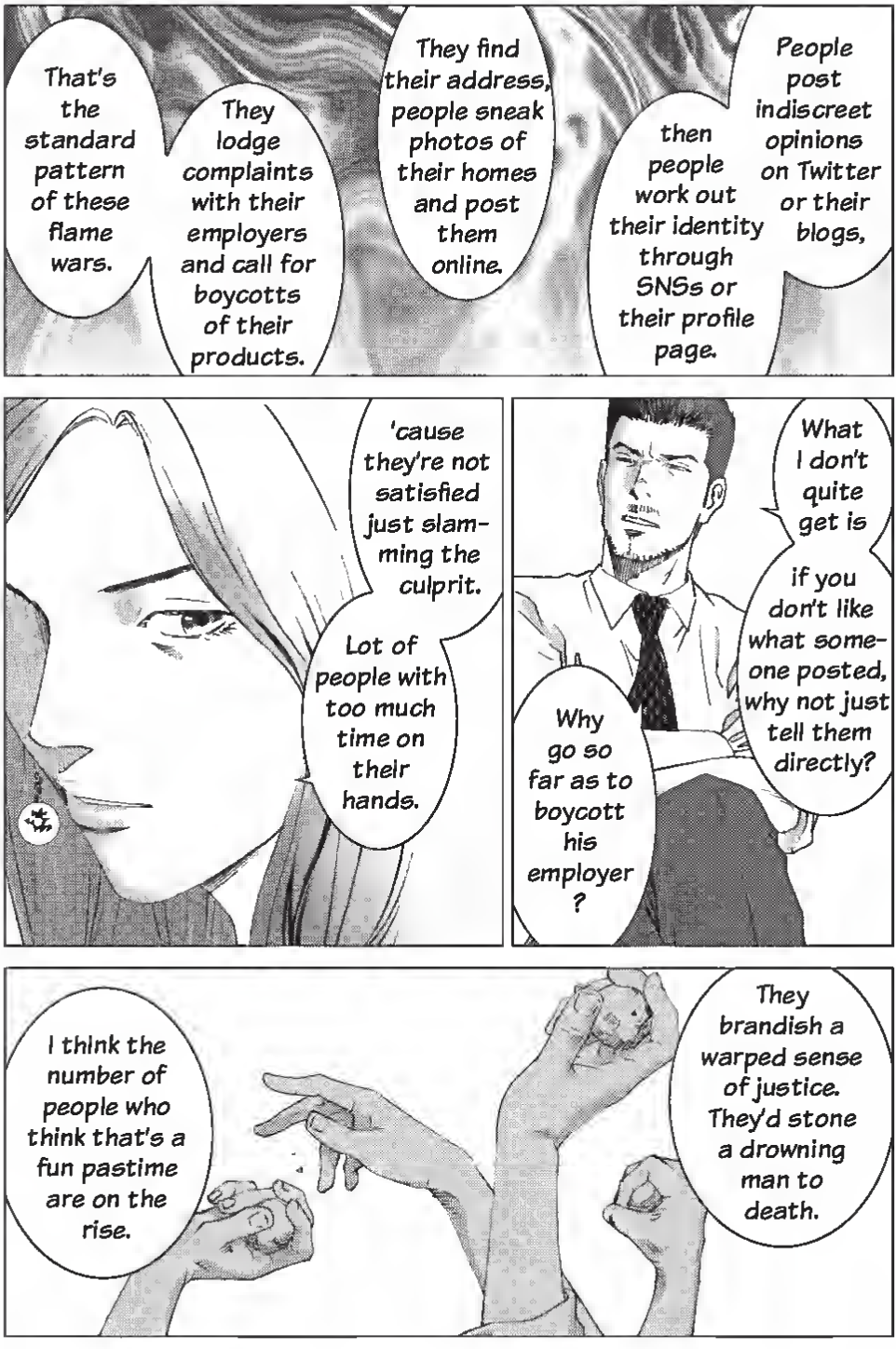

earlier this year, which caused quite a com-motion.
He tweeted this, in regards to a sex crime committed by a fellow student


The target this time is a former student of R University:
Shuji Seki.


"You reap what you sow, amirite?"
"It's the woman's fault for being so easy."

I'LL INJECT HIM WITH A VERY SPECIAL SPIRIT BOMB!
HOW WON-DERFUL THAT HE'S GOT SUCH SPIRIT!

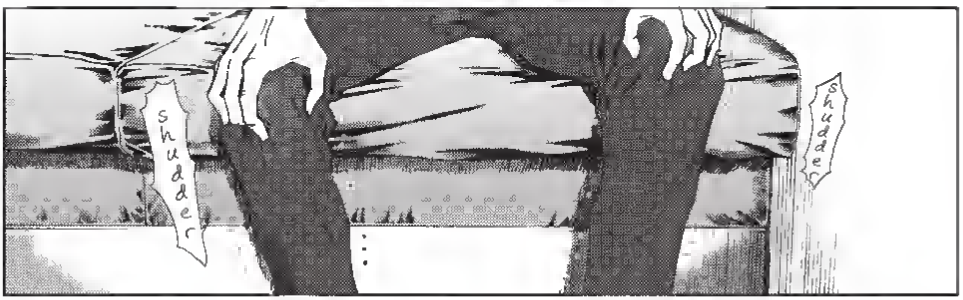
Here, too, the target's identity was discovered via SNS,
his home phone number
even a tentative job offer.
plus the clubs he was in
sparked by tweets defending a man suspected of raping a woman at R University.
Posting time was May 13, 22:10.
This erupted into a flame war on Twitter this year
Rumors say that the target's job offer was eventually retracted, probably as a consequence.
In this case, too, his potential employer ended up inundated with irate calls and appeals for a boycott.
Something I don't quite understand.
What do you mean "flame war"?
Basically, a net lynching.
People make antisocial comments or the like online
and so many attacks flood in that the situation gets out of hand.


People post indiscreet opinions on Twitter or their blogs,
then people work out their identity through SNSs or their profile page.
They find their address, people sneak photos of their homes and post them online.
They lodge complaints with their employers and call for boycotts of their products.
That's the standard pattern of these flame wars.
What I don't quite get is
if you don't like what someone posted, why not just tell them directly?
Why go so far as to boycott his employer?
'cause they're not satisfied just slamming the culprit.
Lot of people with too much time on their hands.
They brandish a warped sense of justice. They'd stone a drowning man to death.
I think the number of people who think that's a fun pastime are on the rise.

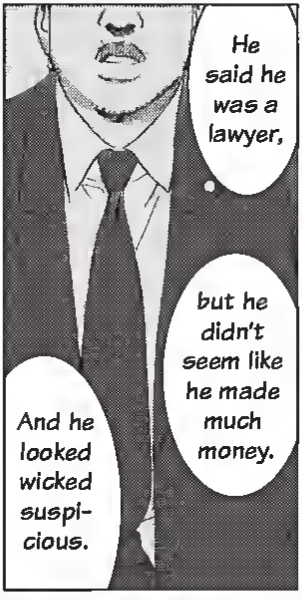
Can we get in touch with the second one, Shuji Seki?
Here's his address.
Seems he hasn't moved yet.
It's in Tokyo. You might be able to see him if you leave now.

... Spirit Bombs ...

If he's had contact with our criminal, we might get a statement.
And find out what "Spirit Bombs" are.

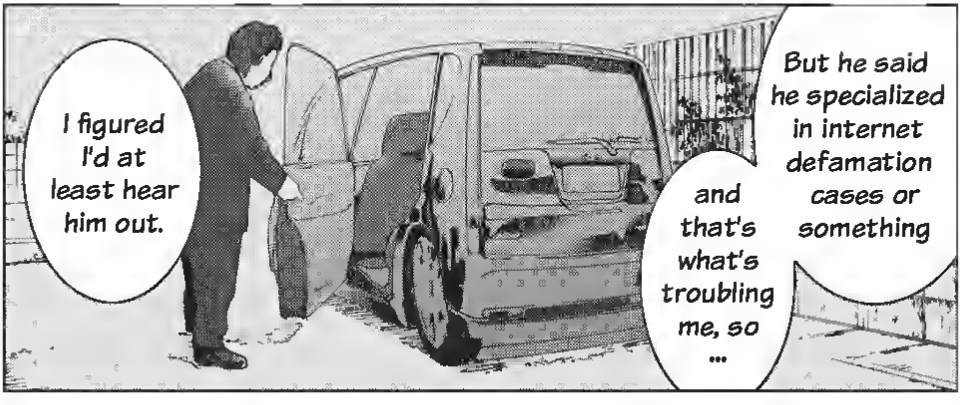

shudder
shudder
...

What do the cops want with me now?


He said he was a lawyer,
but he didn't seem like he made much money.
And he looked wicked suspicious.

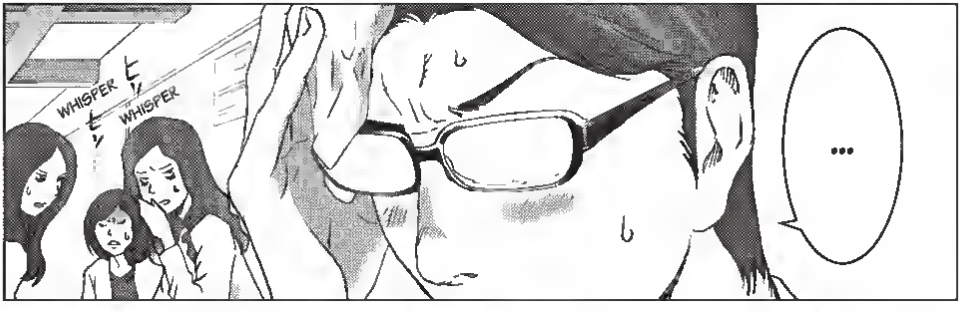
This odd, chubby man called out to me.
I week ago, I was leaving my job.

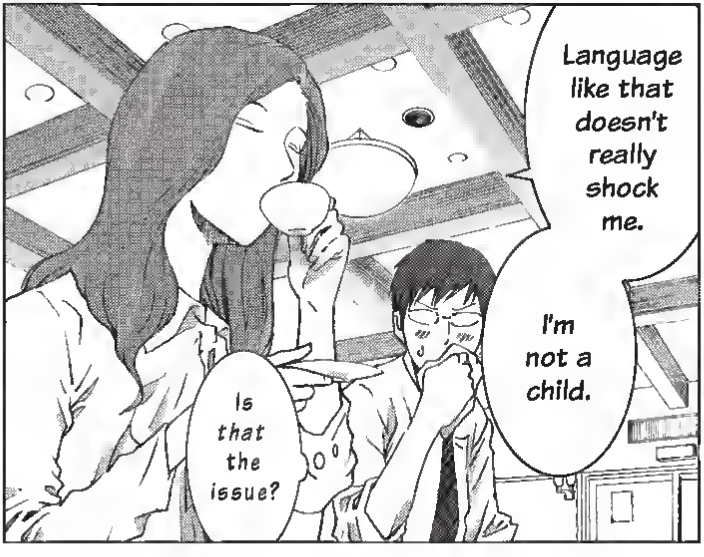
You were recently kid-napped?
Mr. Seki.
We'd like you to tell us what hap-pened.


I figured I'd at least hear him out.
and that's what's troubling me, so ...
But he said he specialized in internet defamation cases or something

When I came to, I was tied up, naked, in an abandoned old building.
And that's where I was assaulted.
But as I was getting into the car
I was suddenly hit from behind.
Y-You're a woman...
I... uhm...
What about the man's age and height?
Maybe in his mid-30's.
Height... about 5'5".
I'm a detective.
Stop fretting and tell me.
... OK.
How were you assaulted, exactly?
From behind he...
He had a s-sex toy, and he...
Well...
He used, uhm...

KLANK
YOU'RE SAYING HE SHOVED A VIBRATOR UP YOUR ASS.


WHISPER
WHISPER
...


Is that the issue?
I'm not a child.
Language like that doesn't really shock me.

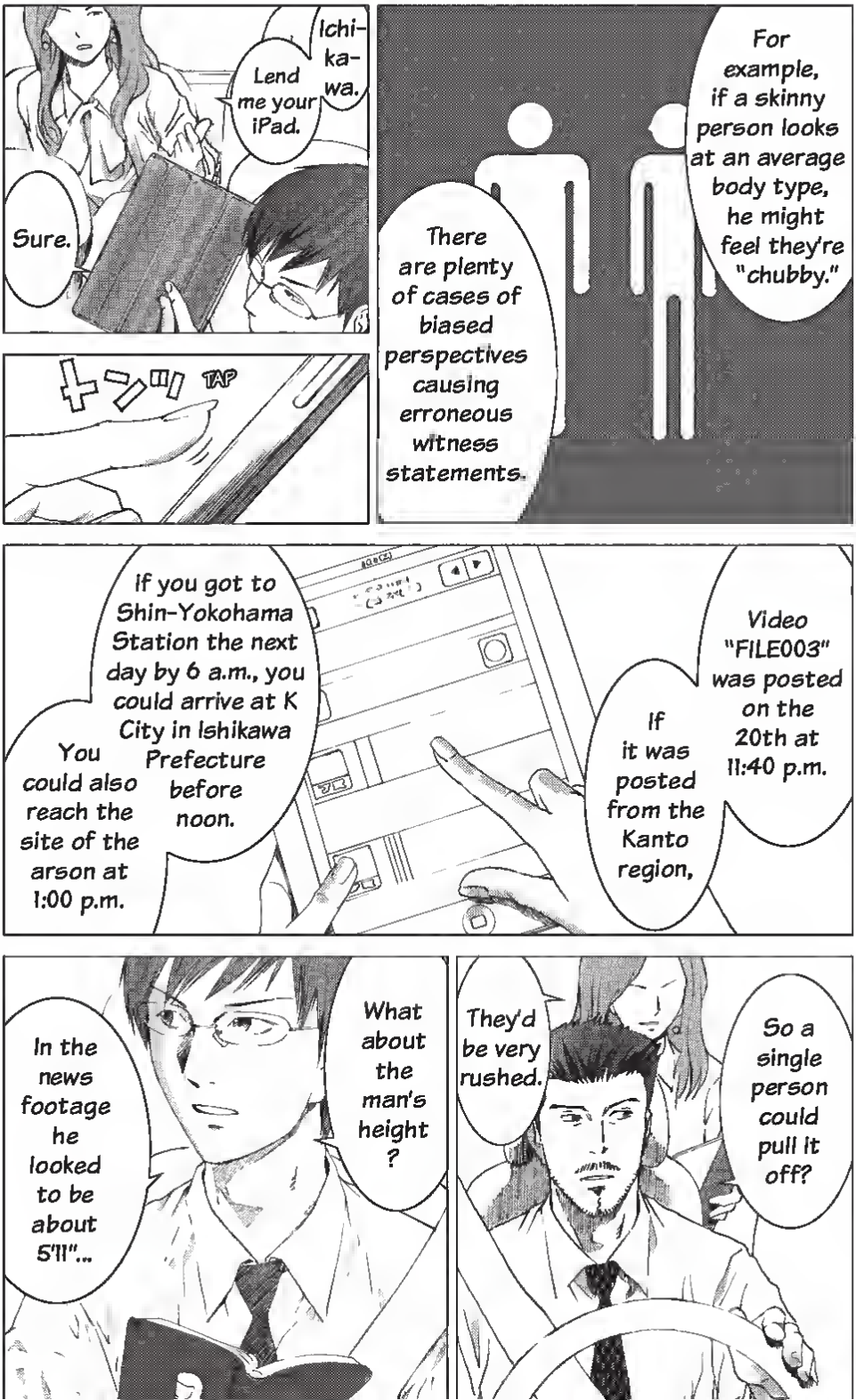
WIPE
WIPE
Geez, this lady ...

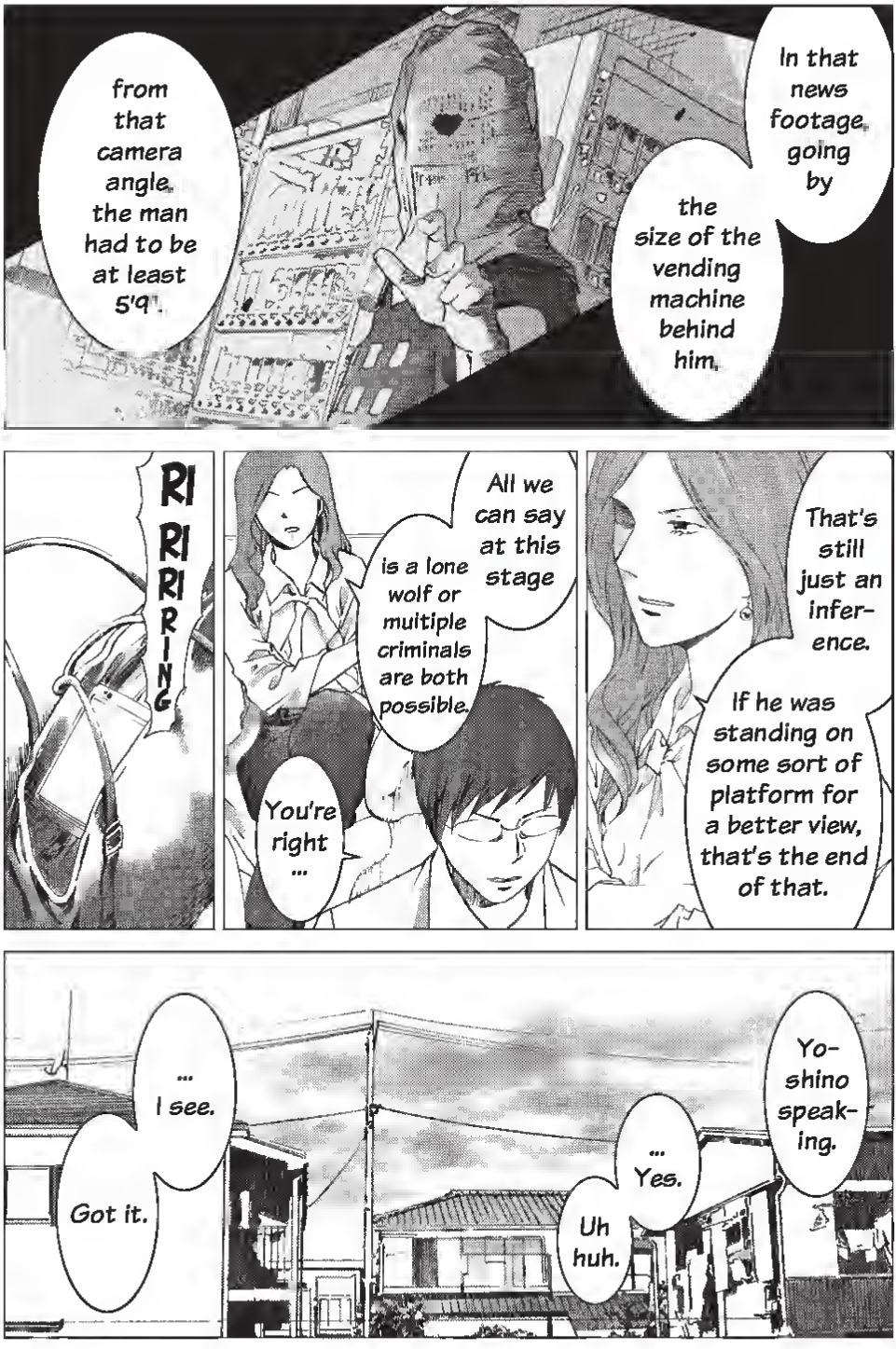
We have no intention of the kind.
So not only do the police not protect me,
you've come here to ridicule me instead?
Day in, day out, the harassing phone calls never end.
Somebody always tails me from the shadows
smirking and taking photos with their phone.
DO YOU GET AT ALL WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE?!
I
And after all that I'm abducted and tied up!
Did I really do anything that bad?!

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW, AM I RIGHT?
BUT YOU WENT ALONG SO EASILY, DIDN'T YOU?
...!
What do you think about those words now?
I'm leav-ing.
Wait a minute.
WH
AM
Oh, now.
Only joking!

Did he maybe have some padding around his stomach?
Did it seem like that to you?
Something you said before
about him being a "chubby man" is bothering me.
Are we done here?
His arms were fat, too.
If there was anything artificial like that, I'd have noticed.
Thank you very much!
We appreciate your cooperation!
Unconsciously covering his rear...
Sure musta hurt...
Thank you for coming!

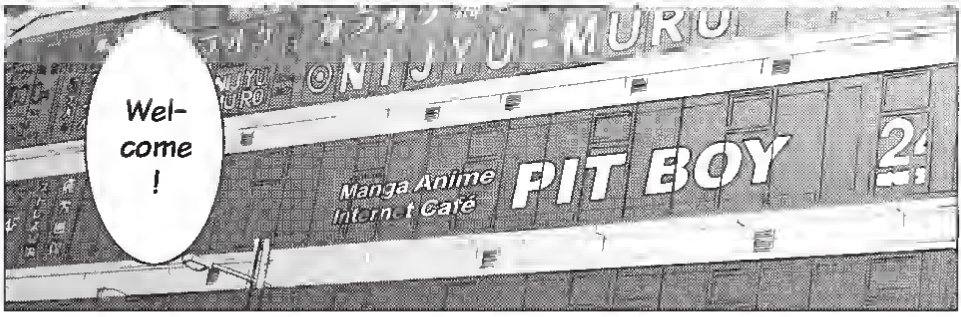
VRRR
Perhaps we should assume that there are multiple "Paperboys"?
I definitely feel it's off to call this guy's body type "chubby."
But multiple full-fledged adults involved in these messed-up crimes? Well...
If they were after money, that's one thing.
I don't think that's possible.
either way...
Well, right now we don't have a clincher

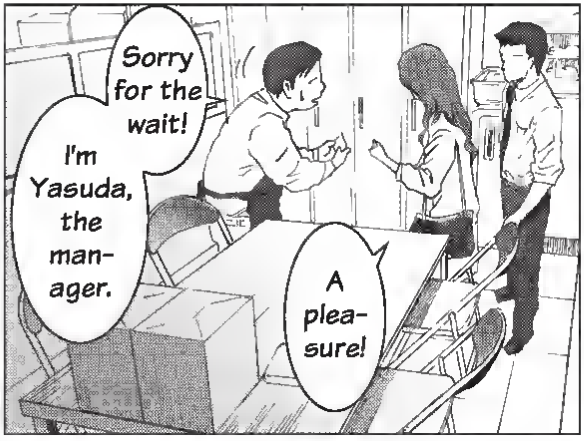

Ichi-ka-wa.
Lend me your iPad.
Sure.
TAP
For example, if a skinny person looks at an average body type, he might feel they're "chubby."
There are plenty of cases of biased perspectives causing erroneous witness statements.
Video "FILE003" was posted on the 20th at 11:40 p.m.
If it was posted from the Kanto region,
If you got to Shin-Yokohama Station the next day by 6 a.m., you could arrive at K City in Ishikawa Prefecture before noon.
You could also reach the site of the arson at 1:00 p.m.
What about the man's height?
In the news footage he looked to be about 5'11"...
So a single person could pull it off?
They'd be very rushed.


In that news footage going by
the size of the vending machine behind him,
from that camera angle, the man had to be at least 5'9".
That's still just an inference.
If he was standing on some sort of platform for a better view, that's the end of that.
All we can say at this stage is a lone wolf or multiple criminals are both possible.
You're right ...
RI RI RI RING
Yoshino speaking.
... Yes.
Uh huh.
... I see.
Got it.

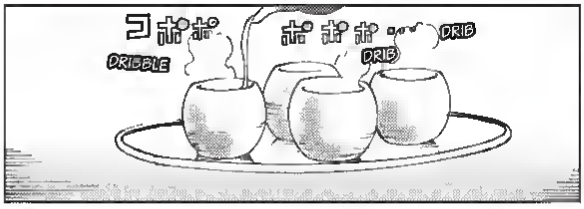
Pit Boy, A City branch, booth 24, with a reclining seat.
He may indeed have consciously avoided Tokyo locations.
The location of the computer used to upload "FILE003."
The IP was traced to Kanagawa Prefecture.
Ichi-ka-wa.
Your deduction was right.
What do you mean ?
...
I-chi-ka-wa.
Wouid you mind?
Yes.
So you wanna pay them a visit before we head back to HQ?
You really are surprisingly transparent.
That's not true...

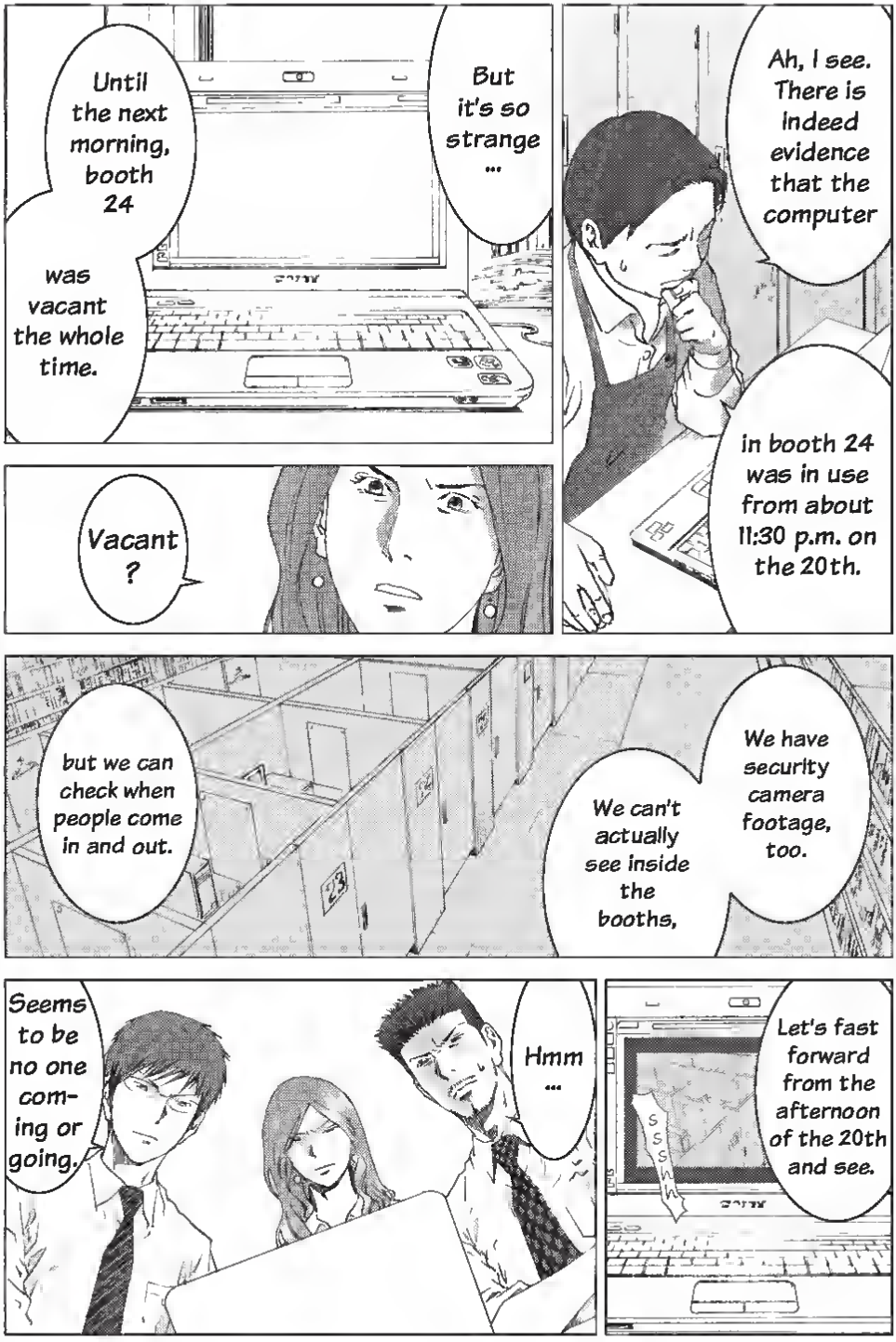
May 21, 16:30
A CITY, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

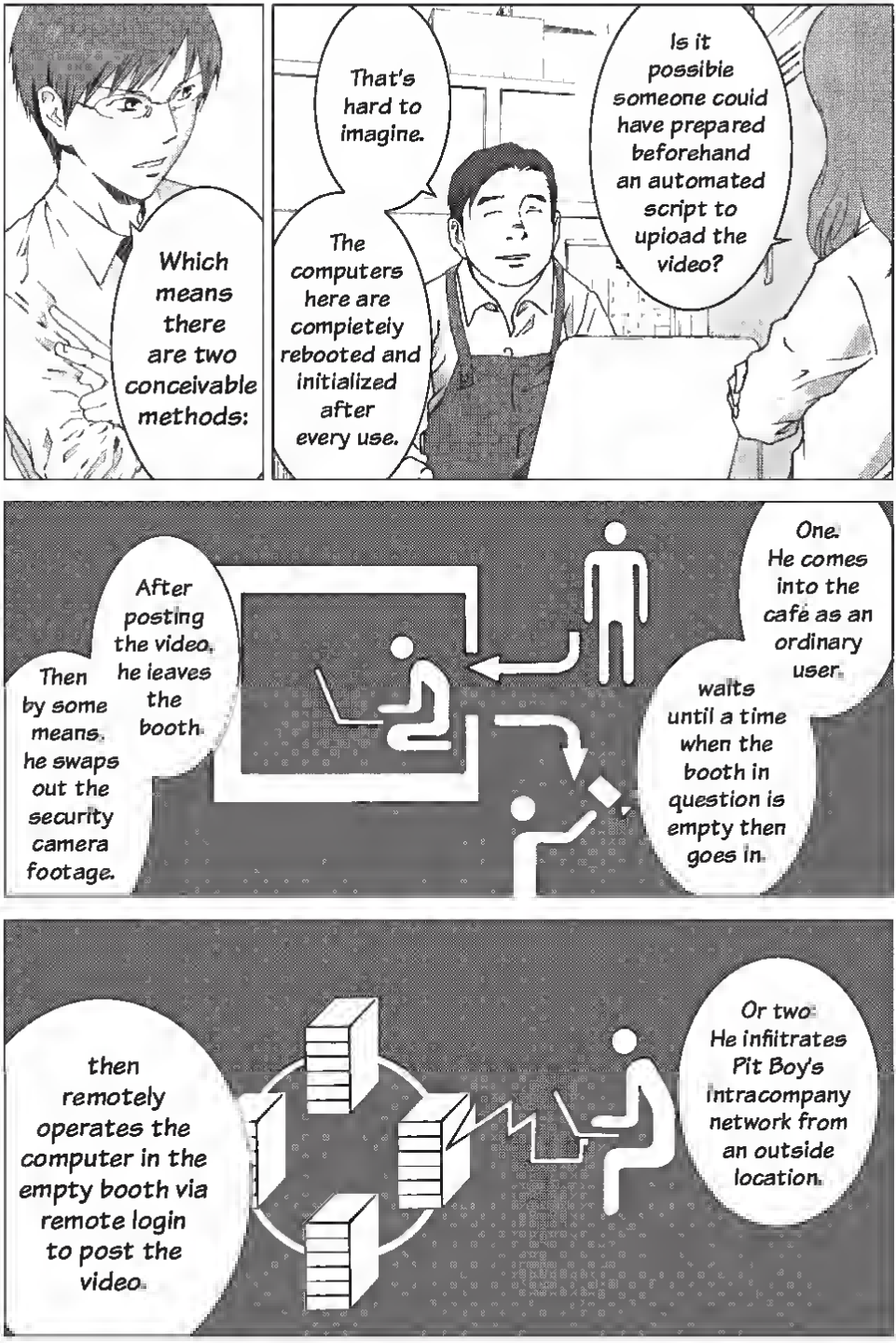

Wel-
come
!
ONIJYU-MURO
Manga Anime
Internet Café
PIT BOY
24

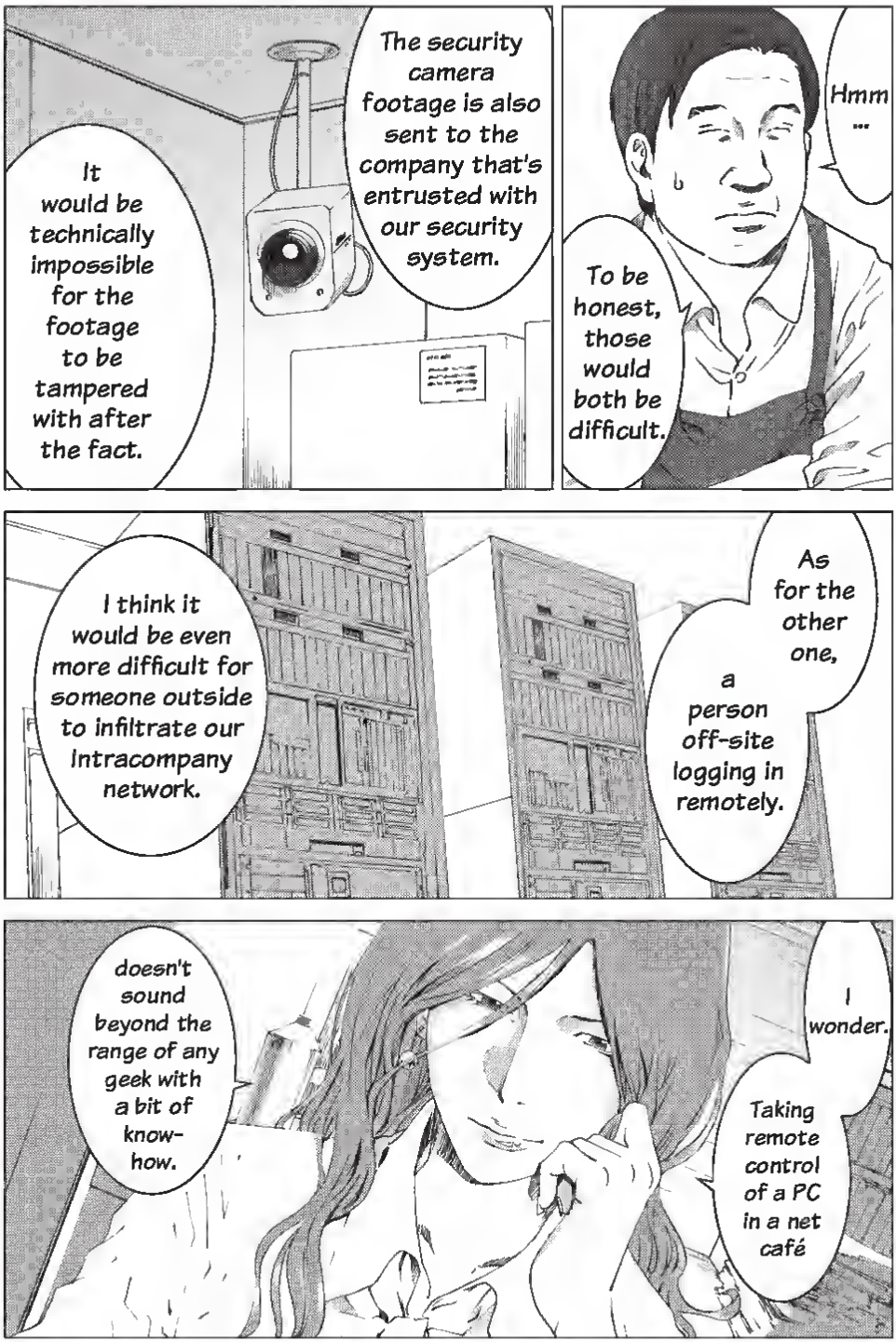

Sorry for the wait!
I'm Yasuda, the man-ager.
A plea-sure!

We're with the MPD.
Oh... J...
Just a minute, please.


コポポ
DRIBBLE
ポポポ
DRIB
DRIB


But it's so strange ...
Until the next morning, booth 24 was vacant the whole time.
Ah, I see. There is indeed evidence that the computer in booth 24 was in use from about 11:30 p.m. on the 20th.
Vacant ?
We have security camera footage, too.
We can't actually see inside the booths,
but we can check when people come in and out.
Hmm ...
Seems to be no one coming or going.
Let's fast forward from the afternoon of the 20th and see.
SSSH

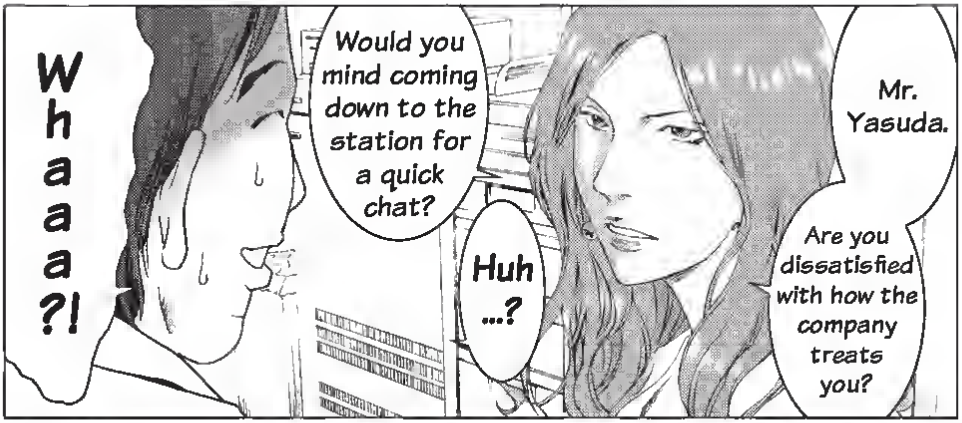

Which means there are two conceivable methods:
That's hard to imagine.
The computers here are compietely rebooted and initialized after every use.
Is it possibie someone couid have prepared beforehand an automated script to upioad the video?
One. He comes into the café as an ordinary user.
waits until a time when the booth in question is empty then goes in.
After posting the video, he ieaves the booth.
Then by some means, he swaps out the security camera footage.
Or two. He infiitrates Pit Boy's intracompany network from an outside location.
then remotely operates the computer in the empty booth via remote login to post the video.

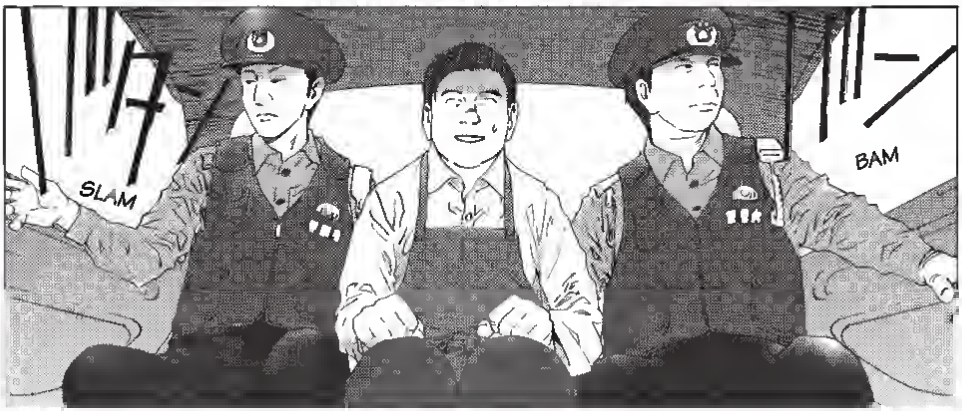

It would be technically impossible for the footage to be tampered with after the fact.
The security camera footage is also sent to the company that's entrusted with our security system.
Hmm ...
To be honest, those would both be difficult.
I think it would be even more difficult for someone outside to infiltrate our intracompany network.
As for the other one, a person off-site logging in remotely.
doesn't sound beyond the range of any geek with a bit of know-how.
I wonder.
Taking remote control of a PC in a net café

Much to our shame, it ended up making a TV news program.
After that, HQ completely overhauled our security systems.
Well, about 3 years ago, there was someone who sent death threats to a celebrity from one of our locations.
We can't allow external users to hack into the classified servers that hold our intranet and customer information.
That's why we have these now.
What is that?
An OTP is a One-Time Password, generated for single use only.
The token is a physical authentication device.
It's called an "OTP Token."

So, who carries these?
Only the managers of each Pit Boy branch
and the staff at the head office.
A hash function-generated one-time password ...
Certainly not an easy thing to break through.
I really think we're the only net café that has taken their security this far.
But is it still possible that someone could get through?
Even an expert hacker using a supercomputer wouldn't be able to unlock it in time.
I mean, that's what the security company asserts, anyways.
I see...

But we've received no such report at all about this incident.
And if any attempt was made to hack in
we would certainly be notified by the security center.
Which limits it to the branch managers and the head office personnel ...
In-deed.
I don't grasp all of it, but
does that mean only an insider could have posted the video?
Oh, erm ...
... Huh ?

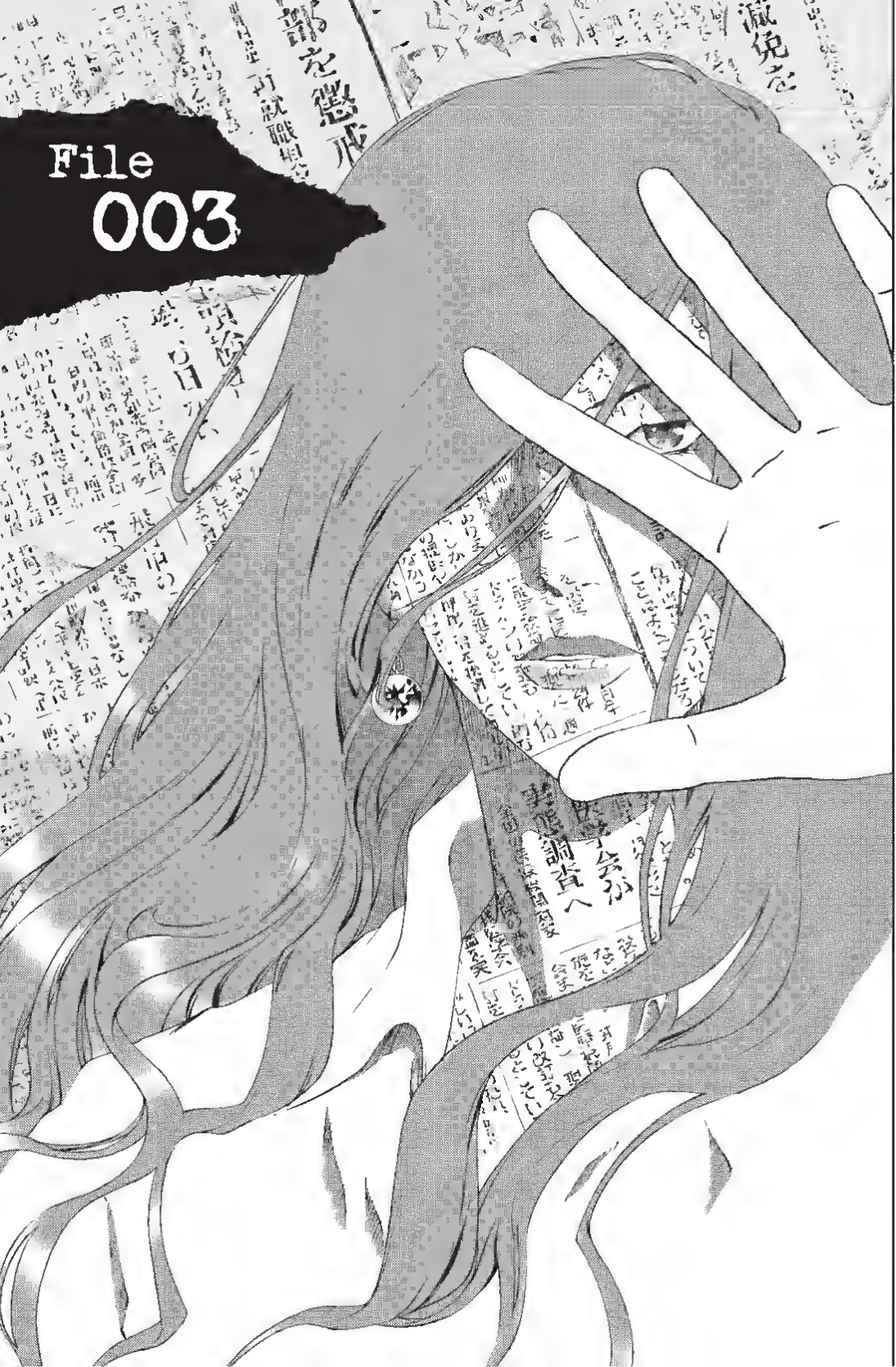

Whaaaa?!
Would you mind coming down to the station for a quick chat?
Huh ...?
Mr. Yasuda.
Are you dissatisfied with how the company treats you?


SLAM
BAM

BBRRRMM

ミノヤロ
SKFF
... The cops.
Faster than I'd expected.

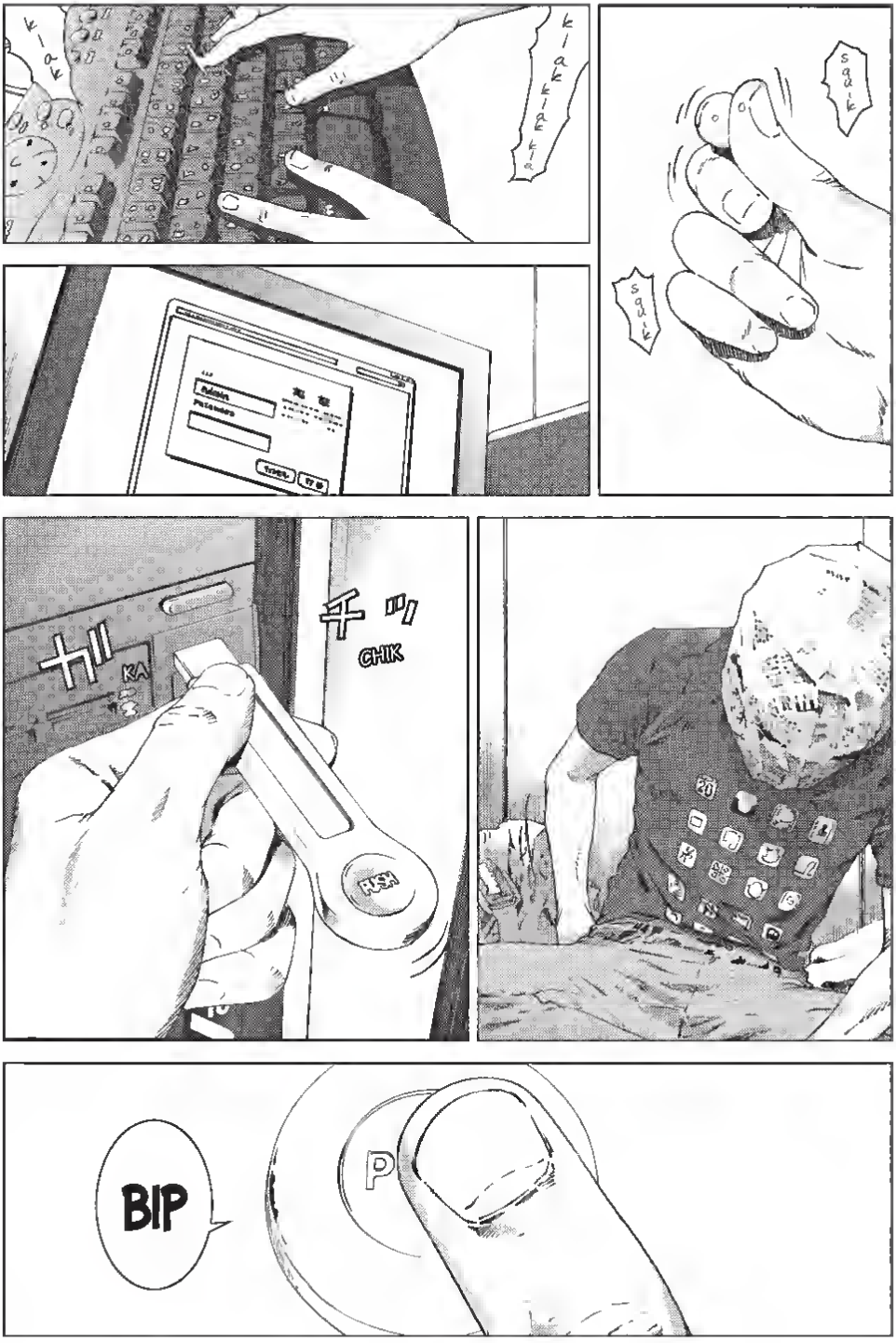
PROPHECY


File
003

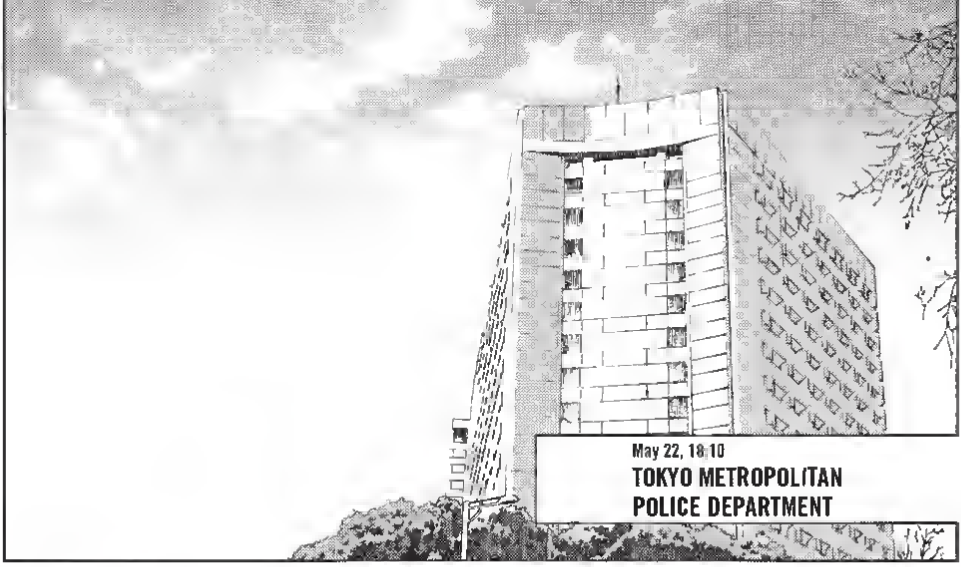
WHIRRR
W'lcome !
KTAK
KTAK
300 yen is your change.
...Thanks.
...?
Night pack. Re-cliner.
1700 yen.
He reeks...
Why's he keep looking down to the right?
...

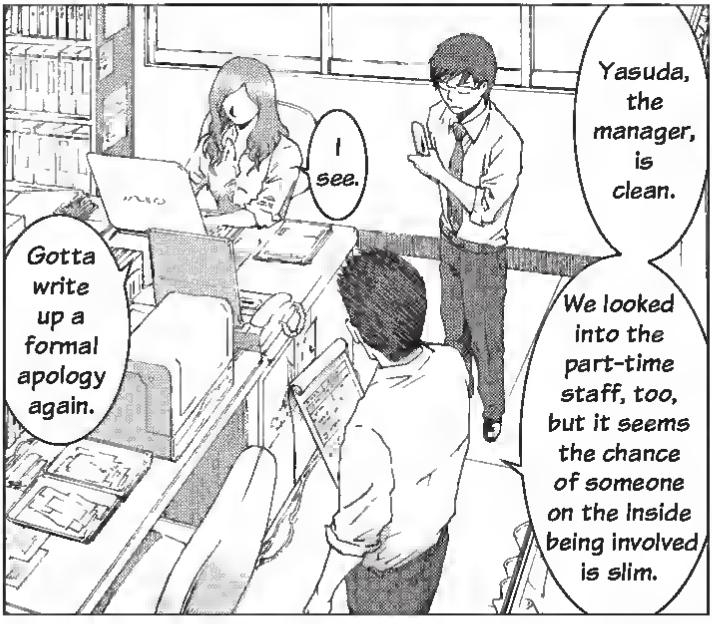
Low-malt beer, 105 yen...
Fried chicken, 180 yen.
Night pack, 1700 yen.
Reclining Seat Booth No. 12
...
SHLL-P
SHLL-P
Just enough to scrape by today.
Guess I'll shower ...
Shower (10 minutes): 200 yen
Bath Towel (loan): 150 yen
Shampoo & Conditioner: 50 yen
Tooth Brush Set: 100 yen

SNFFF...
SNFFF...

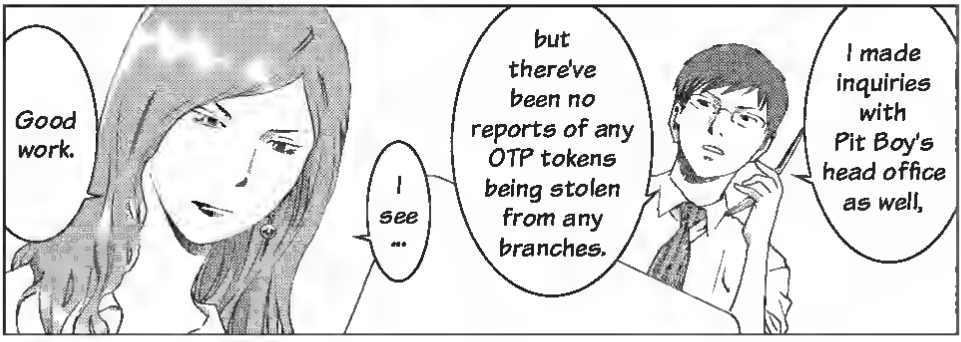

KI-KE
KI-KE KI-KE KI-KE
SQUIK
SQUIK
Admin
Password
カリ
KA
チリ
CHIK
FUSH
BIP
P

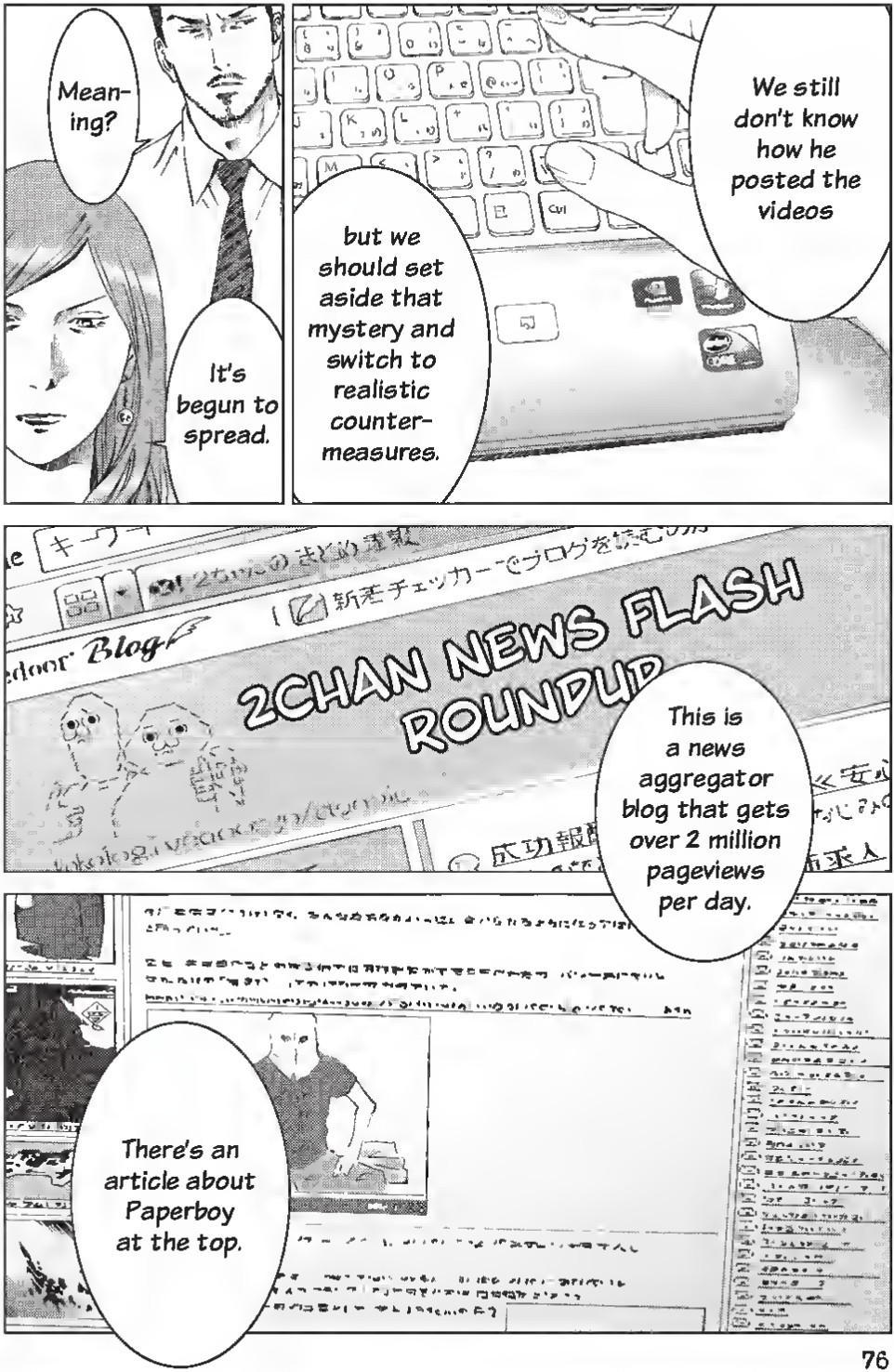
PING
ACCEPTED!
BLINK
KRAK
in one of the 12 branches in Kanagawa and Saitama.
Now to search for an empty booth
How about this one today?
#8 recliner booth, W City branch, Saitama.
KLIK

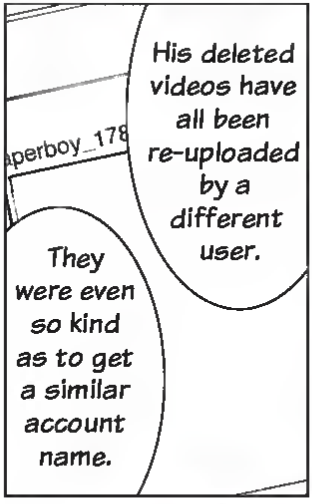

May 22, 18:10
TOKYO METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT

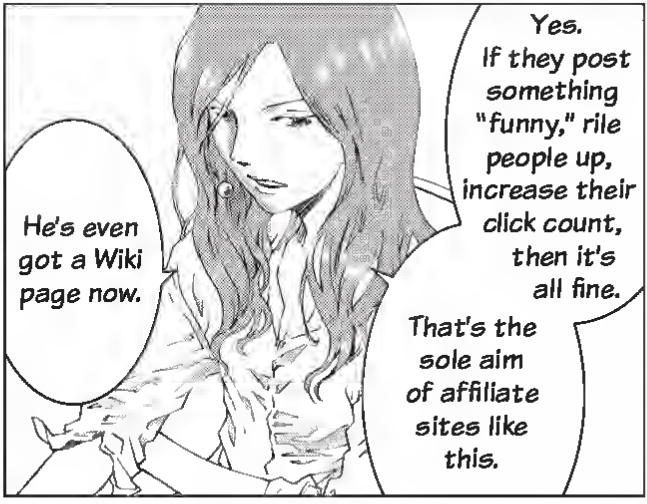

I see.
Yasuda, the manager, is clean.
Gotta write up a formal apology again.
We looked into the part-time staff, too, but it seems the chance of someone on the inside being involved is slim.

KACHAK
Whew ...


Good work.
I see ...
but there've been no reports of any OTP tokens being stolen from any branches.
I made inquiries with Pit Boy's head office as well,


Meaning?
It's begun to spread.
but we should set aside that mystery and switch to realistic counter-measures.
We still don't know how he posted the videos
2CHAN NEWS FLASH ROUNDUP
This is a news aggregator blog that gets over 2 million pageviews per day.
There's an article about Paperboy at the top.



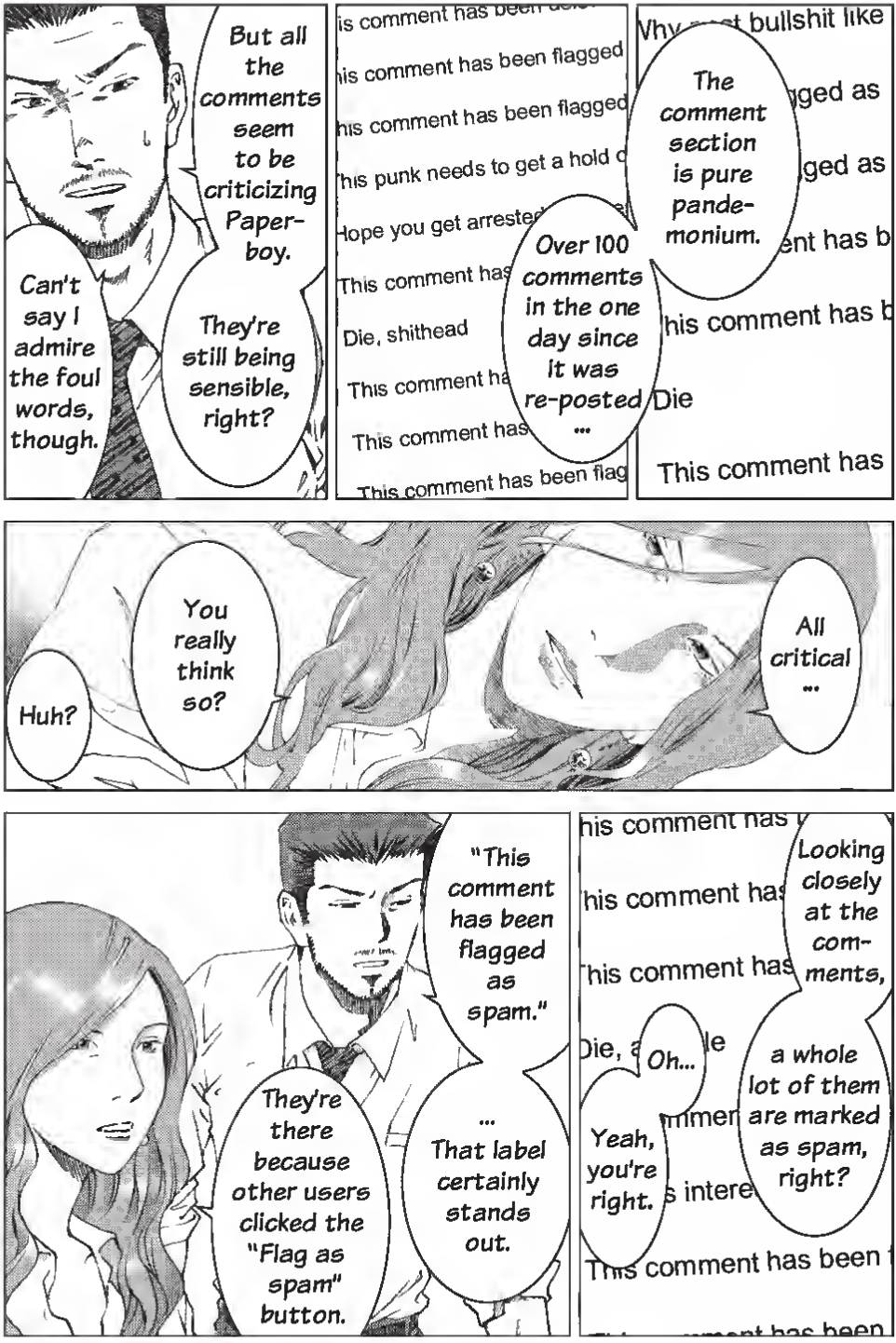

Yes. If they post something "funny," rile people up, increase their click count, then it's all fine.
That's the sole aim of affiliate sites like this.
He's even got a Wiki page now.

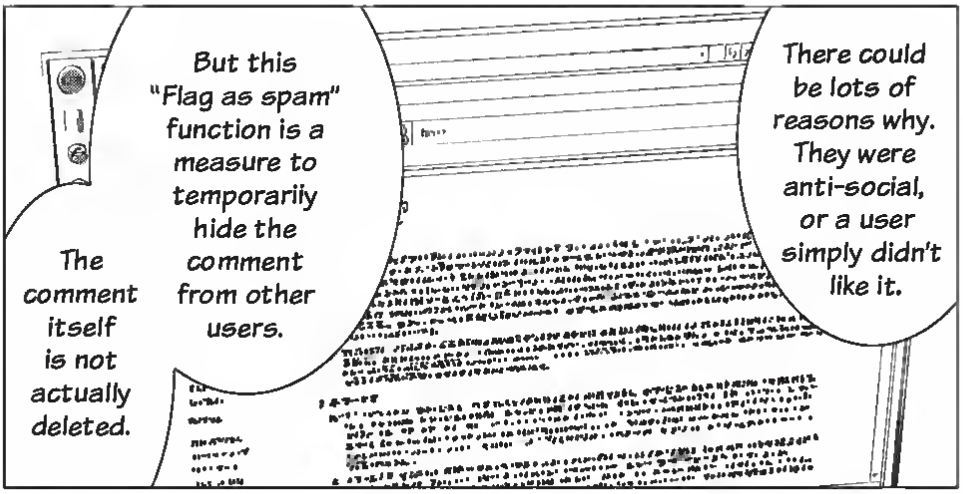
This comment has been flagged a

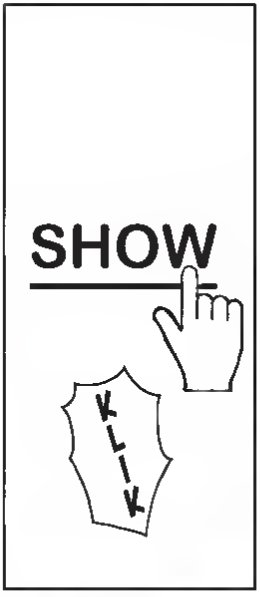
Cops, do your fucking jobs! lol

cyber police () haha

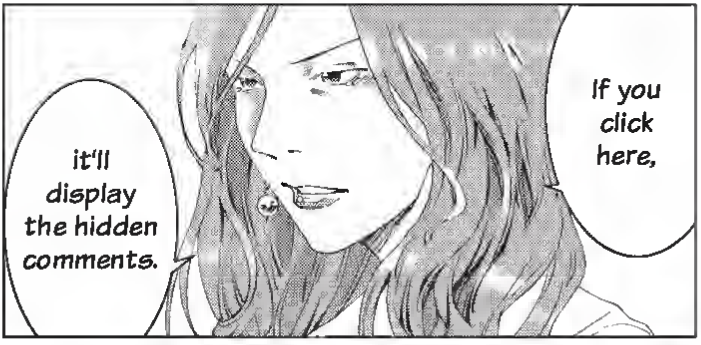
This comment has been flagged

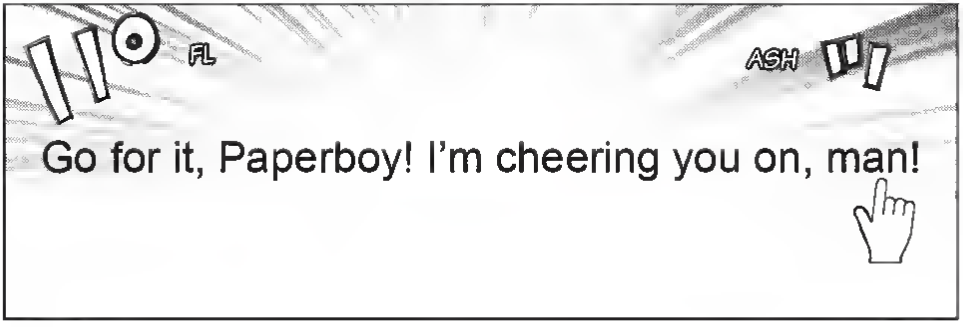

But all the comments seem to be criticizing Paper-boy.
Can't say I admire the foul words, though.
They're still being sensible, right?
This comment has been flagged
This comment has been flagged
This punk needs to get a hold
Hope you get arreste
This comment has
Die, shithead
This comment ha
This comment has
This comment has been flag
Over 100 comments in the one day since it was re-posted ...
The comment section is pure pande-monium.
bullshit like
ged as
ged as
ent has b
his comment has b
Die
This comment has
Huh?
You really think so?
All critical ...
"This comment has been flagged as spam."
They're there because other users clicked the "Flag as spam" button.
... That label certainly stands out.
his comment has
his comment has
his comment has
Looking closely at the com-ments,
Oh...
Yeah, you're right.
a whole lot of them are marked as spam, right?
This comment has been


But this "Flag as spam" function is a measure to temporarily hide the comment from other users.
The comment itself is not actually deleted.
There could be lots of reasons why. They were anti-social, or a user simply didn't like it.


SHOW
KLIK

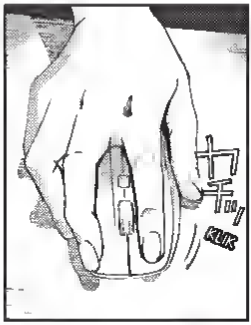
...?


If you click here,
it'll display the hidden comments.


FL
ASH
Go for it, Paperboy! I'm cheering you on, man!

I wish you'd come punish some people at my school, dude. Some of the teachers are pieces of shit.

Hide



This newspaper guy is awesome! lol

watching ur video makes me feel brand new

That cockroach thing cracked me up! rofl

This comment has been flagged as spam. Show

got your back

Do it!

You're a her

Paperboy

I got you

Off the chain

This comment has been flagged

This comment has been flagged

This comment has been fl

This comment has been

mment has been flagged as sp

nment has b

ment has

ent has b

nment has been flagged as

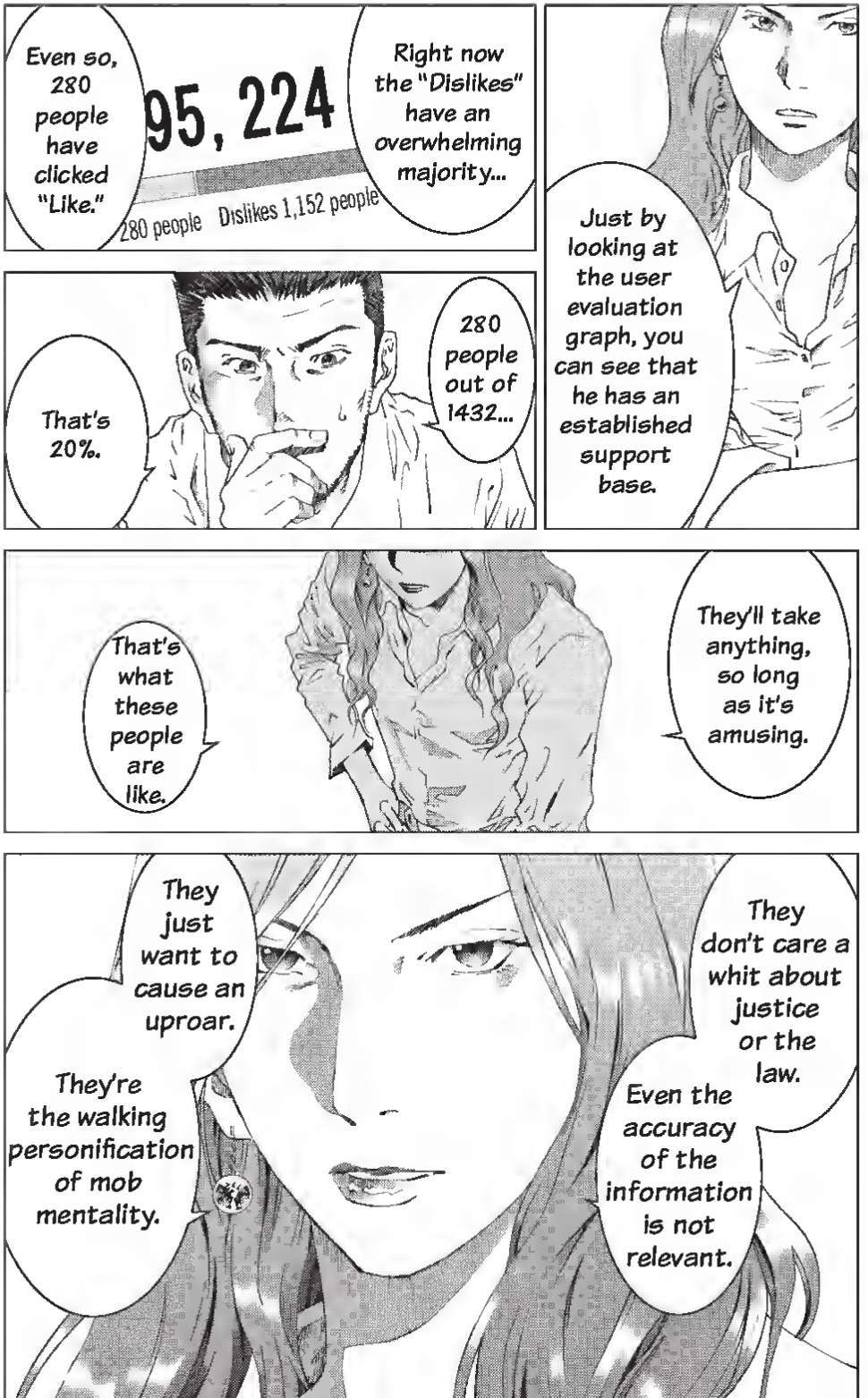
ment has been flagged as

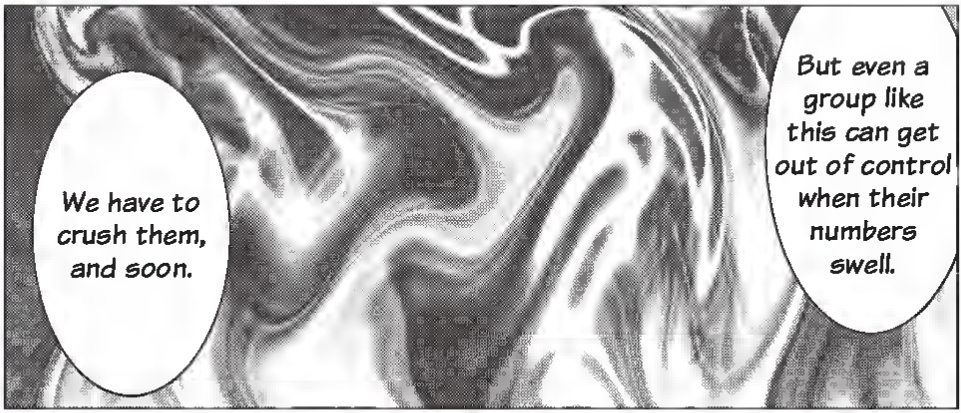
nt has been flagged as

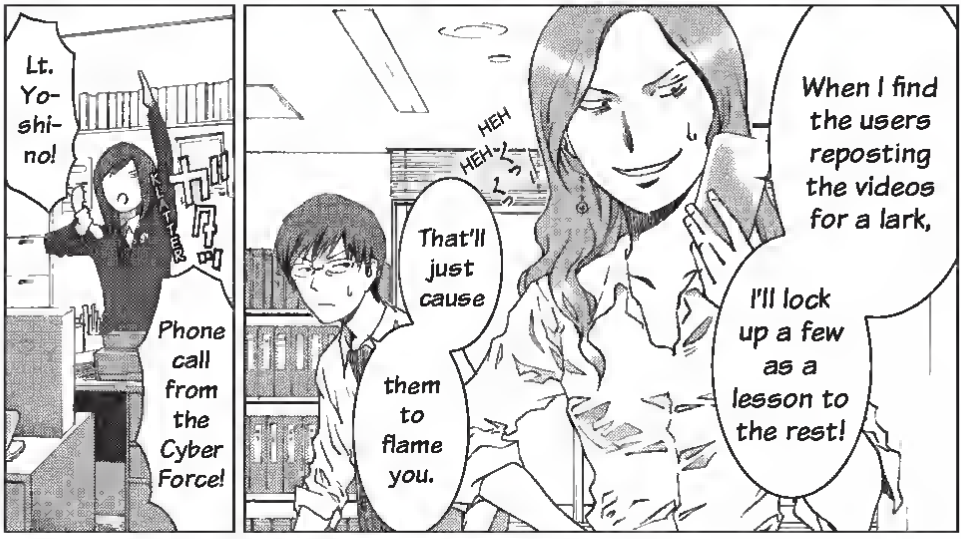
ed as

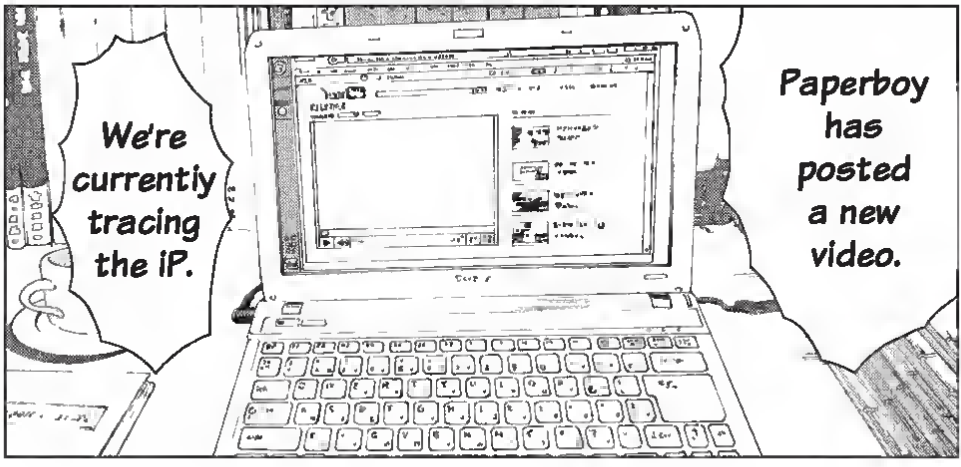
THESE PEOPLE ...

WHAT THE...


Even so, 280 people have clicked "Like."
95, 224
280 people
Dislikes 1,152 people
Right now the "Dislikes" have an overwhelming majority...
Just by looking at the user evaluation graph, you can see that he has an established support base.
That's 20%.
280 people out of 1432...
That's what these people are like.
They'll take anything, so long as it's amusing.
They just want to cause an uproar.
They're the walking personification of mob mentality.
They don't care a whit about justice or the law.
Even the accuracy of the information is not relevant.


We have to crush them, and soon.
But even a group like this can get out of control when their numbers swell.


Lt. Yo-shi-no!
KLATTER
Phone call from the Cyber Force!
HEH
HEH-
That'll just cause them to flame you.
When I find the users reposting the videos for a lark,
I'll lock up a few as a lesson to the rest!


We're currentiy tracing the iP.
Paperboy has posted a new video.

I don't do this for my own benefit.
Like I already told you,
They've long since abandoned functioning like media should.
The traitorous mass media is rotten to the core.
So who do I do it for?
I do it for you.
I'm here to gather those voices and thrust them out into the open.
No one is hearing your voices.
So your voices can be heard.
Oh!

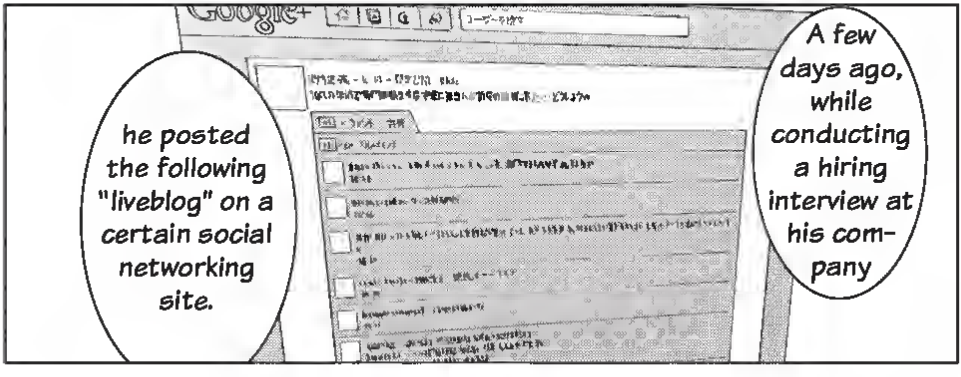
"PAPER-BOY"?
Paperboy is back!
UNIQLO
H&M
CHICUTY 106
DUTY FREE
MUSIC

Nice! It's here!
Spread the Word!
oy Just dropped!! http;/ /by
1,280 Retweets
Retweet, retweet! ♪
It's frozen ...
Ooh! It's loaded !
The hell are ya doing?
Do your damn job, pigs!
Very slow connection today...
What's he gonna do this time...

I heard he might do a live-stream.
He made a separate account on the streaming site.
Crap ! Better take today off work!
Is that the guy who was on the 2chan blog?
I first saw him on Nico Nico.
Huh? Who's he? Some celebrity ?
This guy's videos are so hilarious!
Nah, he's just some jerkwad.
It's probably that attention whore ____.
Who is that ?
It's heeeeere!
This is no time to be eating bamb
Has the new Paperboy vid come?

Here's my warning for tomorrow.

facebook
Masayoshi Ikehata
+1 Add Fnend
Masa-yoshi Ikehata.
The next target is an employee at a certain internet service firm in Tokyo.


he posted the following "liveblog" on a certain social networking site.
A few days ago, while conducting a hiring interview at his com-pany

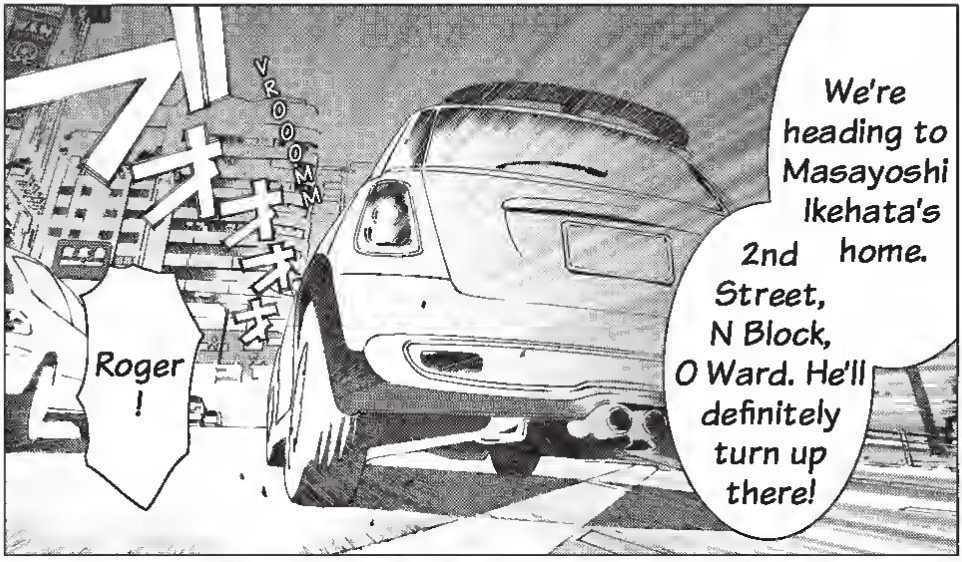
32-year-old tech school grad's here for an interview... What to do with this geezer? lol
17:32
D-Dude's got balls!
17:35
Better go back to tech school myself!
17:35
Interviewing a guy that's older than me! lmfao! Should I liveblog this? lol
17:40
Bwahaha!! Do it!!!
17:41
"I went to [REDACTED] technical college. My name's [REDACTED] Shinyy-y-yya."
17:45
Mushmouth. Can't hear a fucking word he's saying! lolz
17:45
What a loser! haha
17:46
Ahahaha!! Oh shit! I nearly laughed out loud in the office!
17:48

and he exposed him to public ridicule.
This applicant had come to take the company's employment exam,
On the resume which the applicant submitted
there was apparently a blank period of several years.
and they find the situation so hilarious they nearly burst out laughing.
A 32-year-old man is there for a job interview,
We don't know, but perhaps,
due to circumstances, he temporarily lost his footing and was derailed from society's tracks.
Was he drifting?
Was he working part-time, or was he a NEET?

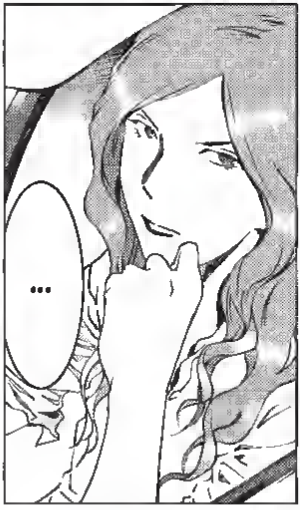
Here is a man trying earnestly to do his level best.
Who has the right to turn him into a laughing-stock?
Yet even so, he tried to reintegrate into society by starting to hunt for a job.
MASA-YOSHI IKEHATA.
I HEREBY SENTENCE THIS PIECE OF SHIT.
I WILL BEAT YOU INTO PULP.
1950円

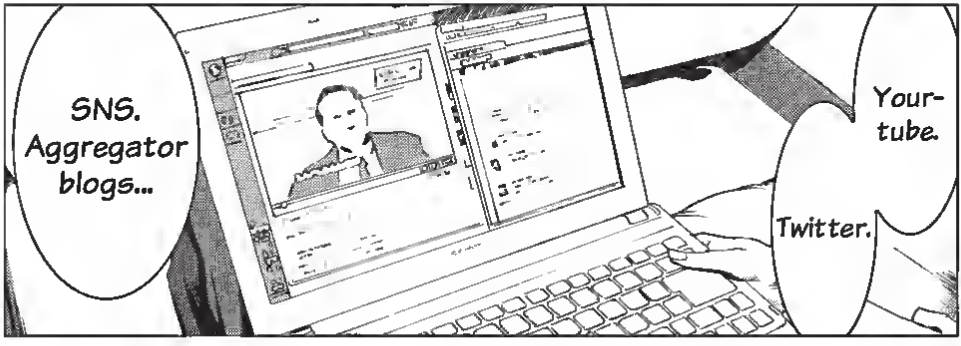
I've got your back!
klak klak
I'll spread this every-where!
has been flagged as
Bwa ha ha !
Yeah, man! Go for it, yo!
Lame !
This is wild!
"Sen-tence"? The fuck?
So slow ...
This guy's a riot!
Hah !
KTUN
KTAN
...
...
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
Flag as spam! Flag as spam !
Shit! I can't keep up!

KLIK
KLAK
KLIK
KLAK
Requesting urgent deployment of officers from jurisdiction!
We need personal protection for Masayoshi Ikehata and a security zone at key points in the environs of his house!
Ichikawa, have the Cyber Force on standby!
Continue the IP analysis!
DRIVE SLOWLY
Boss, the analysis is complete.
That was fast!
The location is W City, Saitama Prefecture. The W branch Pit Boy.
Got it. Ichikawa, head on over there.
Roger.
Is it from another Pit Boy location?
Yup.
Only the Paperboy likely isn't there, or hasn't even set foot inside.
It's probably a fool's errand, but it has to be checked out anyway.


VROOMM
Roger!
We're heading to Masayoshi Ikehata's 2nd home. Street, N Block, O Ward. He'll definitely turn up there!

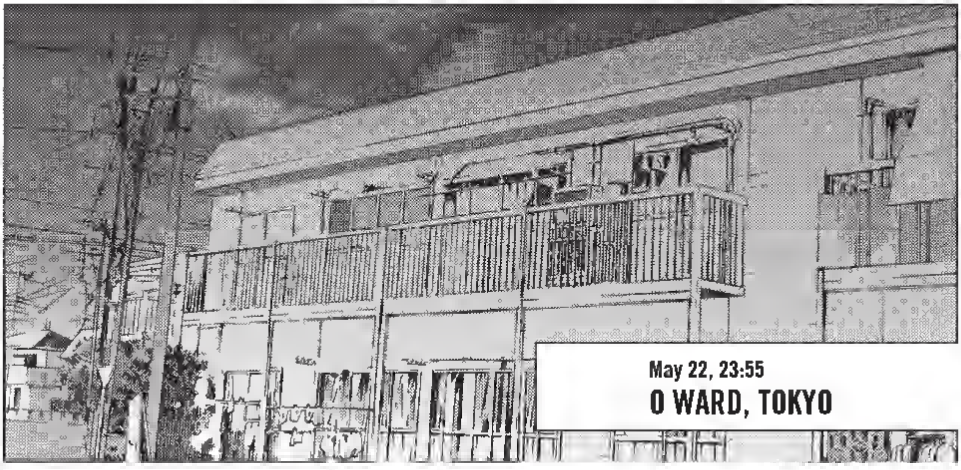
No breaking news interruption even at a time like this...
Bwa ha ha ha
Now, hang on a sec!

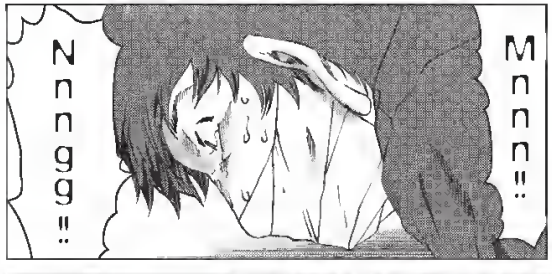

...


SNS. Aggregator blogs...
Your-tube.
Twitter.

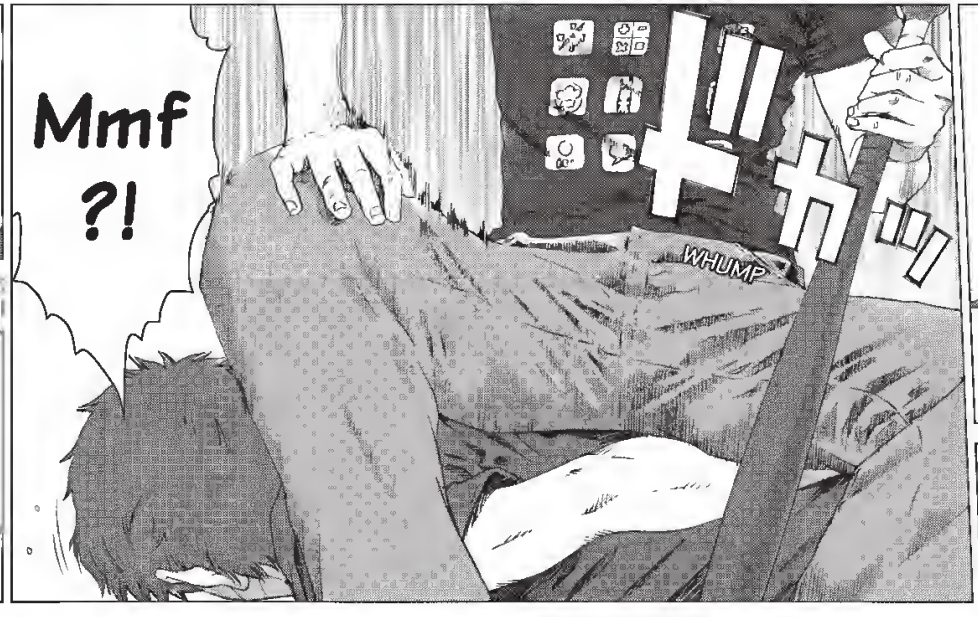
I guess the era where TV as the stage
for criminals with a flair for theatrics is over.

Heh heh.
You mean TV's "jumped the shark"?

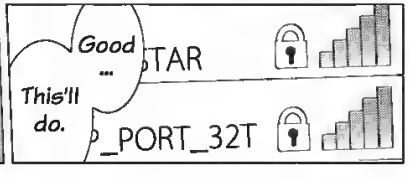

May 22, 23:55
O WARD, TOKYO

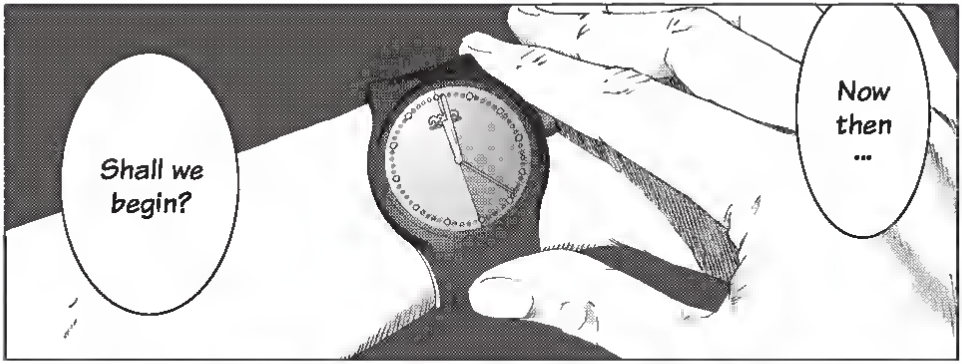

Mnnn!!
Nnngg!!

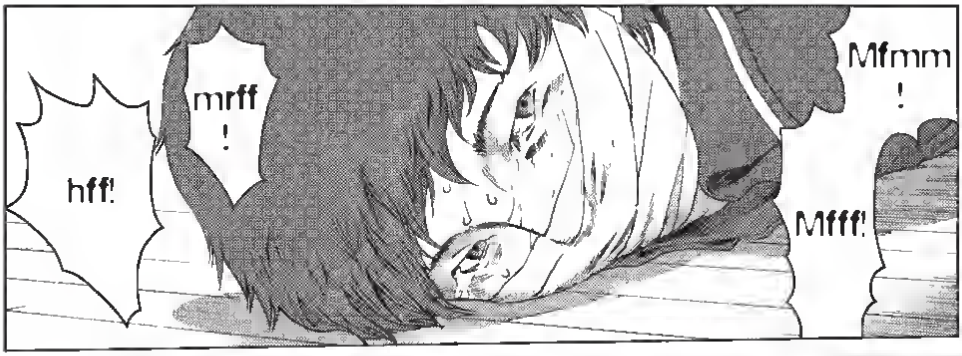
I can crack a WEP key in 1 minute.
Just sit tight.


Mmf ?!
WHUMP

Now to search for a wireless access point...

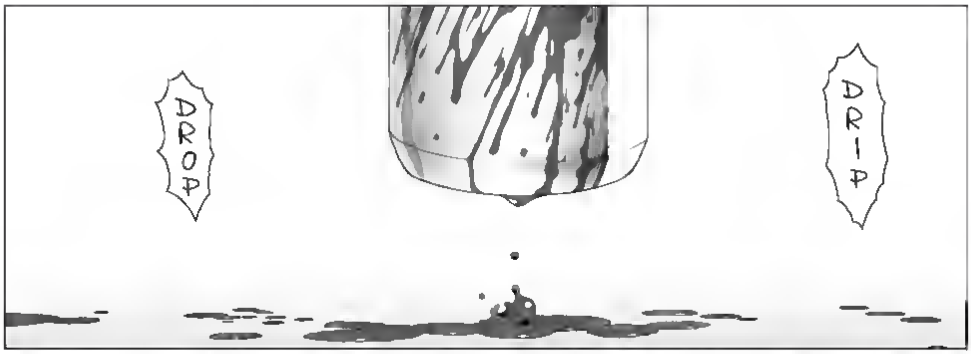

Good...
This'll do.
TAR
_PORT_32T

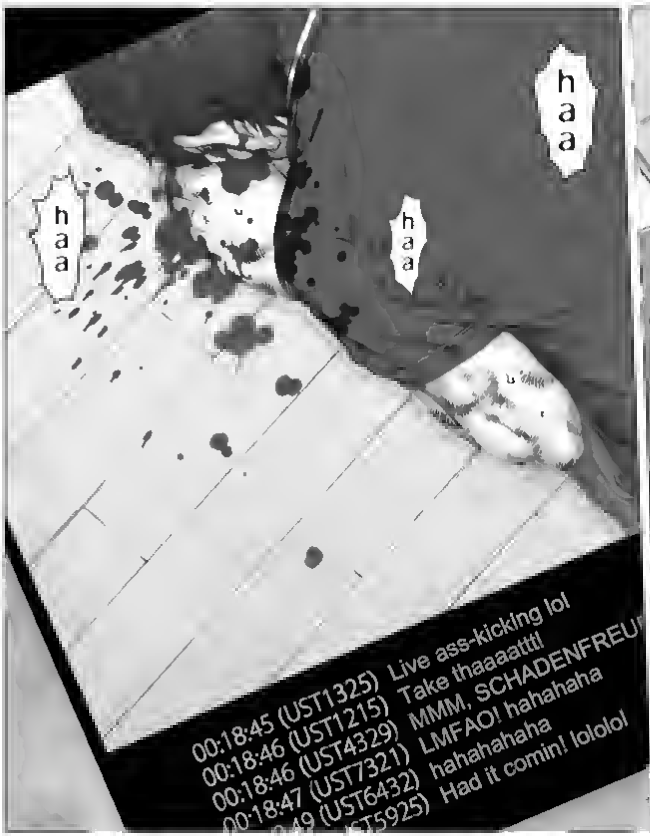

Shall we begin?
Now then ...

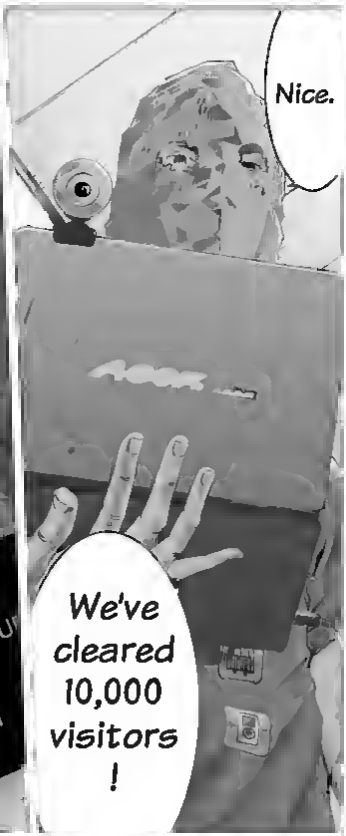

hff!
mrff !
Mfmm !
Mfff!

Hup !

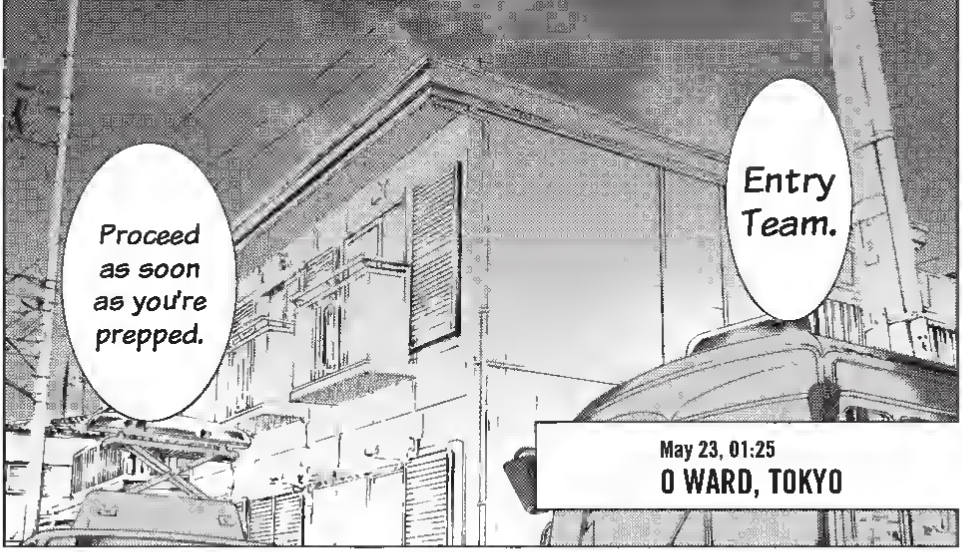
File
004

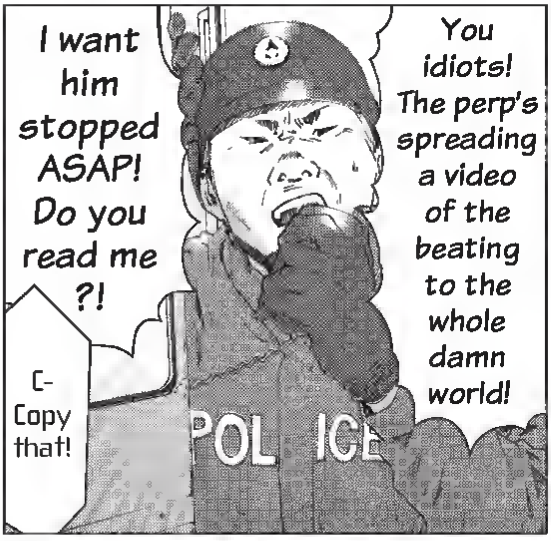


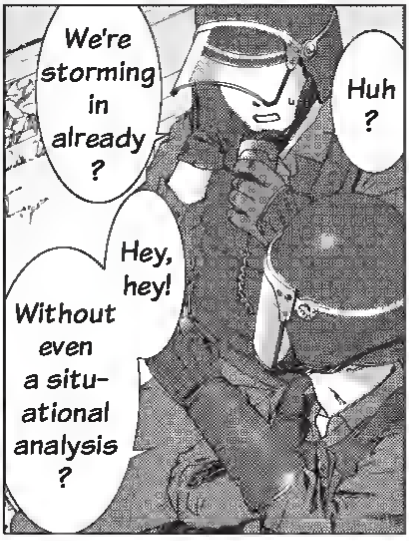




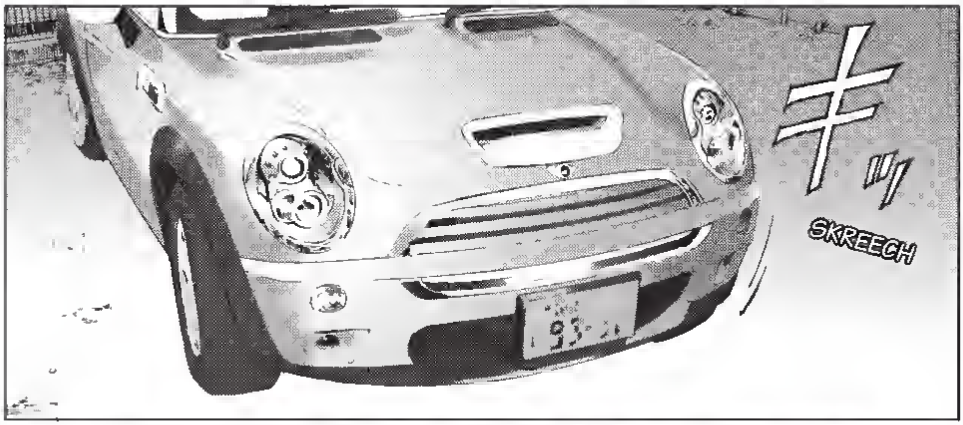
00:19:24 (UST9827) lolololololol
00:19:24 (UST9827) Had it comin! haha
00:19:25 (UST5678) Stop! Ikehata's down to zero life!
00:19:27 (UST6100) when r the cops gonna show up?!
00:19:30 (UST1533) get off your asses, cops! lol

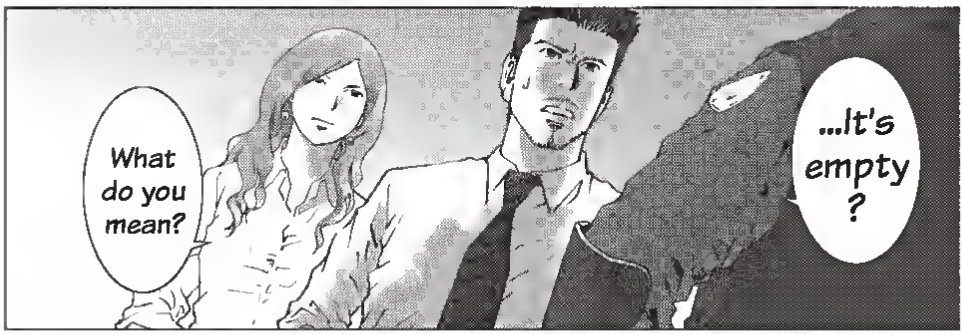

Entry Team.
Proceed as soon as you're prepped.
May 23, 01:25
O WARD, TOKYO


I want him stopped ASAP! Do you read me ?!
C-Copy that!
You idiots! The perp's spreading a video of the beating to the whole damn world!
POL ICE


We're storming in already ?
Huh ?
Hey, hey!
Without even a situational analysis ?

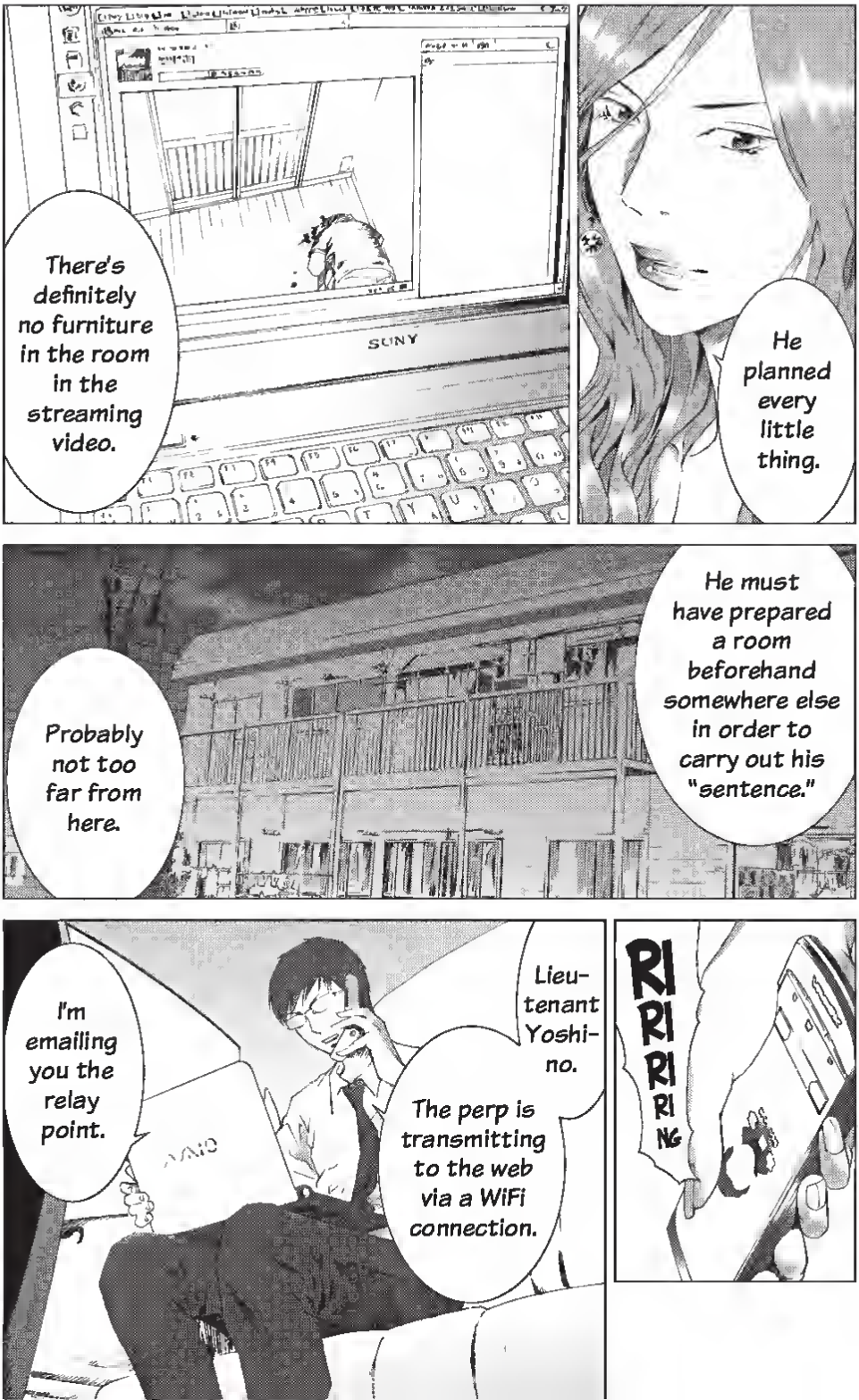
Here we go!
Three, two—


SKREECH

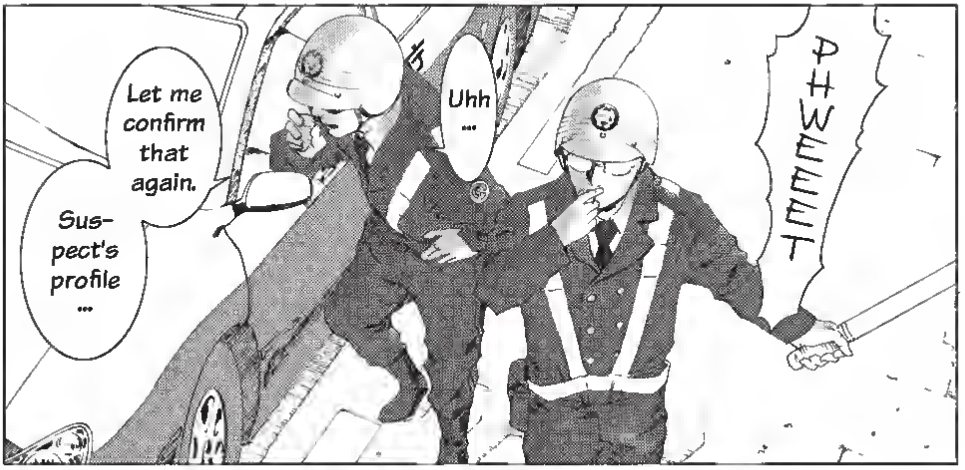

What do you mean?
...It's empty?

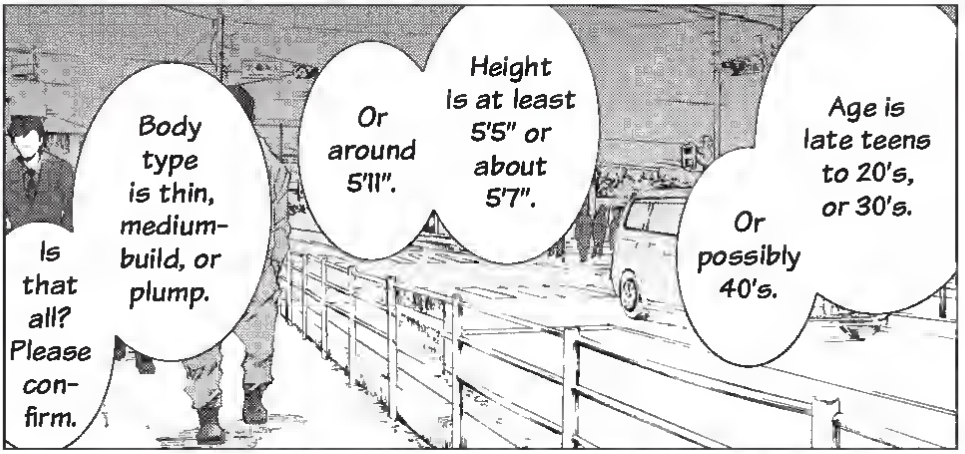
The volume is set quite high, probably
so the audio of the broadcast can be heard outside.

It's totally vacant.
Just a single computer dispiaying a live broadcast trans-mission.


There's definitely no furniture in the room in the streaming video.
He planned every little thing.
Probably not too far from here.
He must have prepared a room beforehand somewhere else in order to carry out his "sentence."
I'm emailing you the relay point.
Lieu-tenant Yoshi-no.
The perp is transmitting to the web via a WiFi connection.
RI RI RI RI NG

...
OK.
Except that's far too broad a range to set up a dragnet.
We can't pinpoint it with GPS-level precision,
but we can estimate that the perp is transmitting the video from within a 100-meter radius of this spot.
Or is he the "average-build man" who always posts the videos?
Is he the "chubby man" who abducted Shuji Seki?
Is he a "tall, thin man" like the arsonist at Ishikawa?
In the streaming video
the perp took every caution to shoot it from an angle where we couldn't see his body.
Right now, we can't even be sure of that...
Or can that all be dismissed as eyewitness bias?

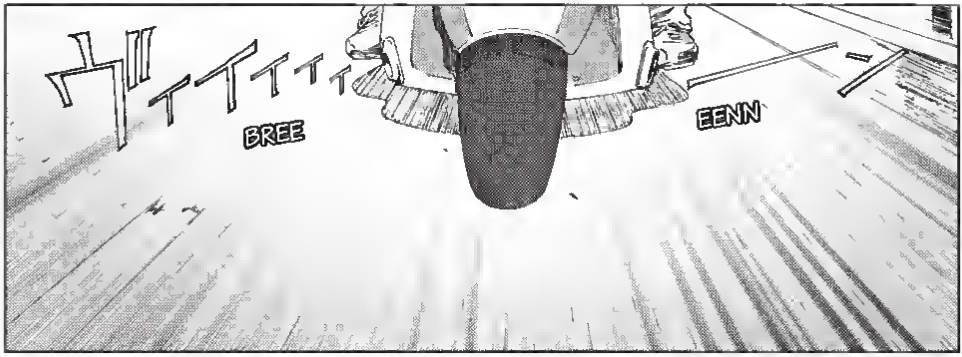

PHWEEET
Uhh ...
Let me confirm that again.
Suspect's profile ...

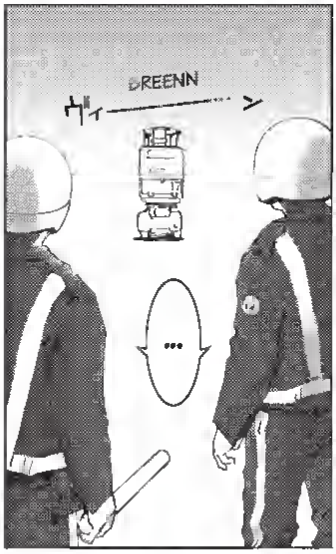

Height is at least 5'5" or about 5'7".
Or around 5'11".
Body type is thin, medium-build, or plump.
Age is late teens to 20's, or 30's.
Or possibly 40's.
Is that all? Please confirm.

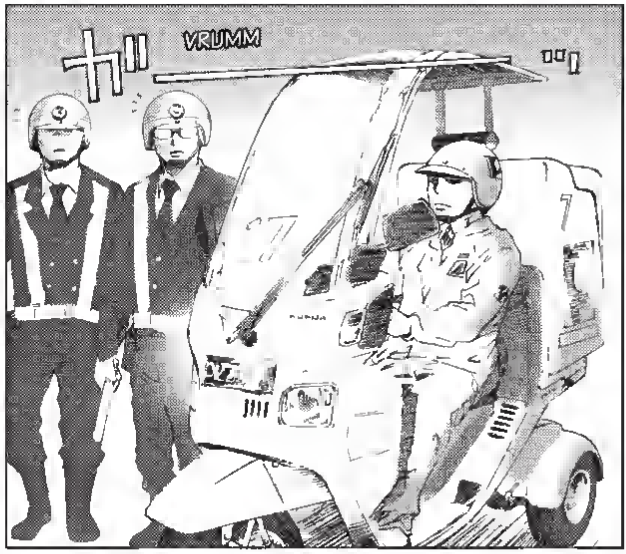
So basically we're to question every single man that happens to walk by?
That is nuts.

KACHAK
Phew

Don't get so bent outta shape over it.
Ha ha!
And just when I think I'll have a day that ends in peace for once, we get this.
That's just my luck
The only incident I had to handle today was a report of a stolen bike from a pizza joint.

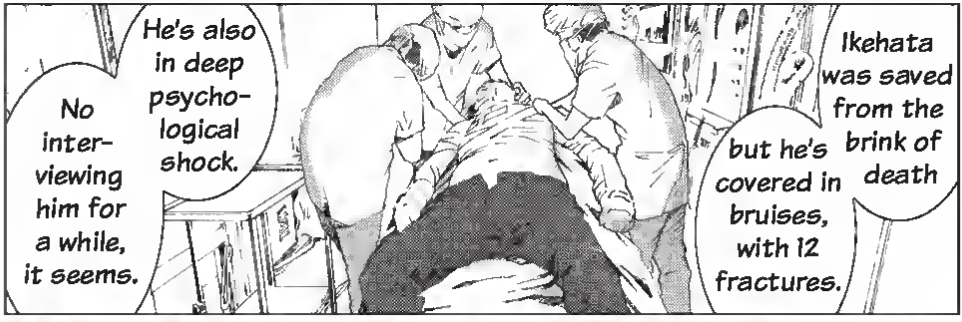

BREE
EENN

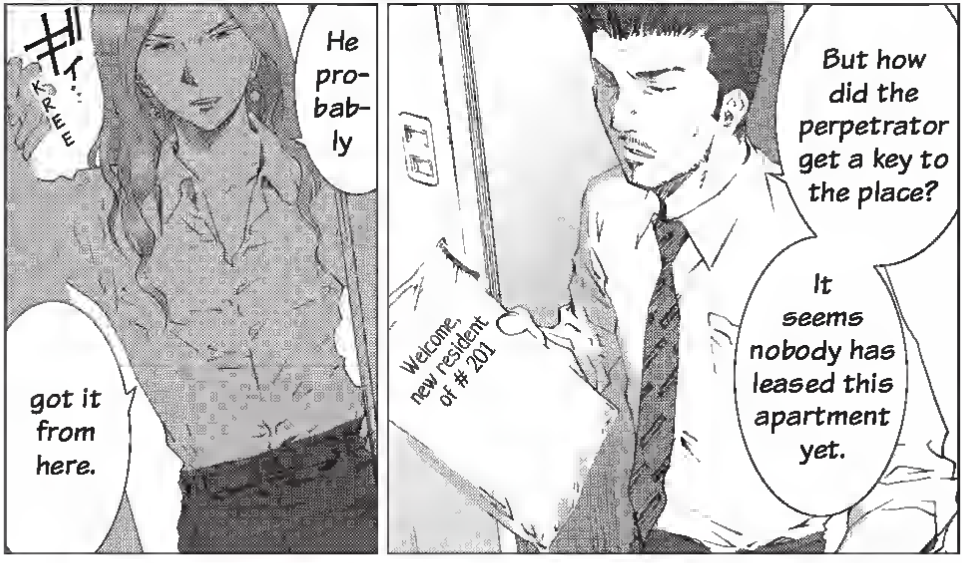

BREENN
...

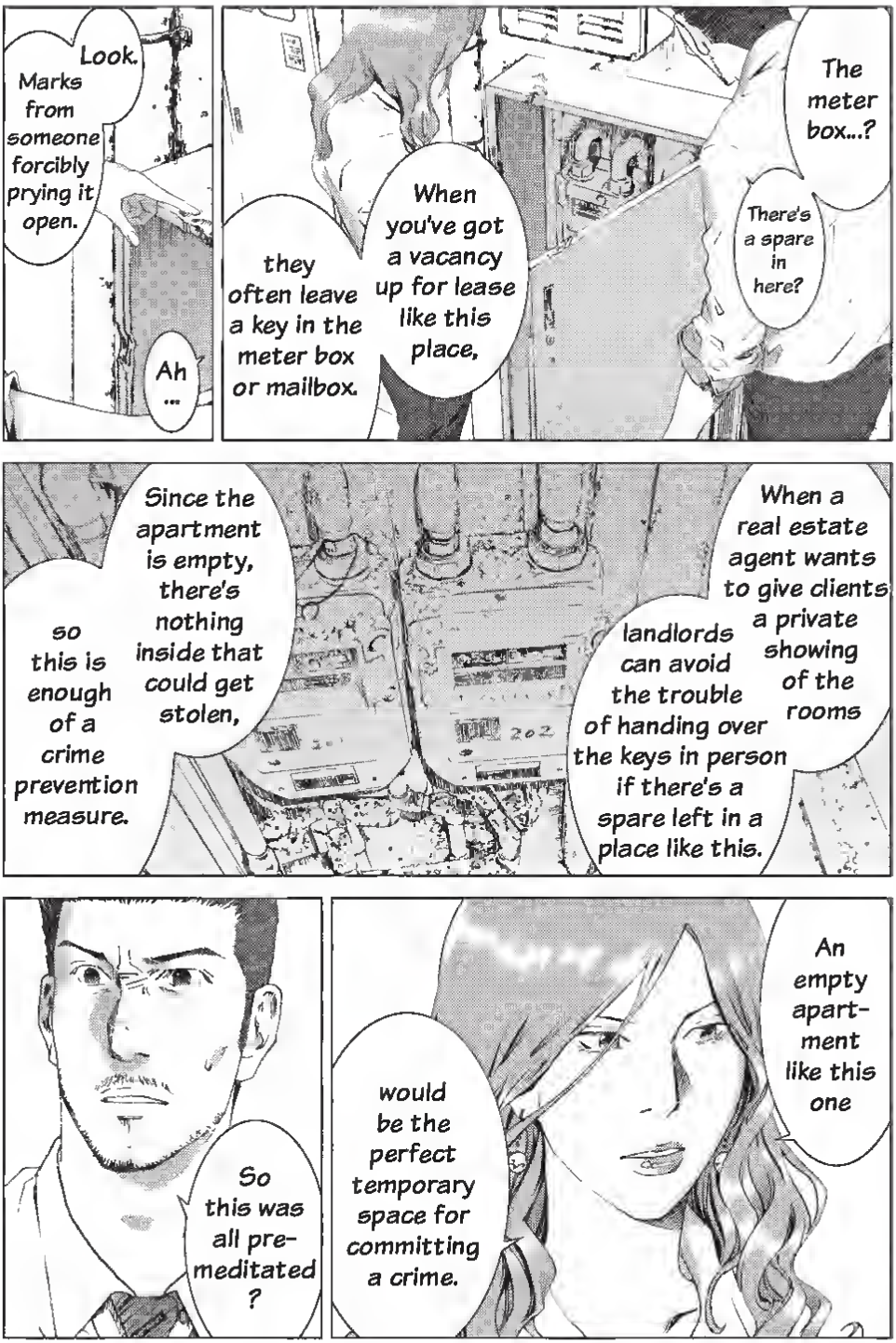

VRUMM

If I was him I'd lose my shit, for real.
Bad form to waylay someone making a delivery
... Hmm. Well.
PIZZA
HONDA
SKREE

An empty rental apartment ...


No interviewing him for a while, it seems.
He's also in deep psychological shock.
Ikehata was saved from the brink of death
but he's covered in bruises, with 12 fractures.


He probably
got it from here.
Welcome, new resident of # 201
But how did the perpetrator get a key to the place?
It seems nobody has leased this apartment yet.


Look.
Marks from someone forcibly prying it open.
Ah ...
The meter box...?
There's a spare in here?
When you've got a vacancy up for lease like this place,
they often leave a key in the meter box or mailbox.
Since the apartment is empty, there's nothing inside that could get stolen,
so this is enough of a crime prevention measure.
When a real estate agent wants to give clients a private showing of the rooms
landlords can avoid the trouble of handing over the keys in person if there's a spare left in a place like this.
So this was all pre-meditated ?
An empty apart-ment like this one
would be the perfect temporary space for committing a crime.

ZZZ...
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
KLAK KLAK KLAK

OKUDA! HAVE YOU FINISHED MODULE 8 YET?!
YES! IT'LL BE READY IN 3 MIN-UTES!
Okuda, you're en-thused lately.
Nab a girl-friend?
...
KLAK KITY KLAK KITY KLAK
Well, con-grats.
Oh. That's right. You're on contract, yeah?
Thanks.
Ha ha!
I'll have been here 3 years next month.
I'll be made a full-time employee.

Wha... Please, boss! Give me a break!
It's what I've been working towards this whole time!
I don't remember us having a system like that!
Become a full-time employee?
Uh... well, other than JAVA...
I looked at a bit of PHP and C++...
Okuda, What did you learn in school other than JAVA?
Hmm. Well, that may be, but...
Hmf.
C... just the basics.
That was mostly self-taught.
What about C?

I see lots of you types lately.
Kids who get a bit of JAVA under their belt
and then they're like "I'm a programmer!"
That shit's fuckin' useless.
Right.
Yeah man.
The entry point for kids these days is object-oriented programming.
What the...
Huh ...?
Is this turning into an attack on me ...?

Makes it real hard to look at. Could you stop that?
You've a habit of putting in line breaks in weird places.
Another thing, Okuda.
Yes ?
Yeah. Could you?
Should I fix all the work I've done already, too?
Oh...! Sorry. I'll be more careful.
Today ?
What ...
That could be pretty tough...
Well, but...
Fix it today.
Also, on this project, the client's changed the specs.

Yes, sir.
Under-stood.
Do it.
It's your job.
KLATTER
Uh... umm.
Presi-dent Horii.
About formatting the code and that stuff...
If possible, could you please tell me sooner, so...
Well...
It would help me get things done on time.

A damn temp's finding fault with my work.
Well that's some shit. What'll I do?
Huh?
What?
You saying I give bad direction?
Not at all!
That's not what I...
N-No, sir!
GET IT?!
YOU'RE NOT A FUCK-ING BABY !!
Listen here!
If there's something you don't under-stand, then ask!!

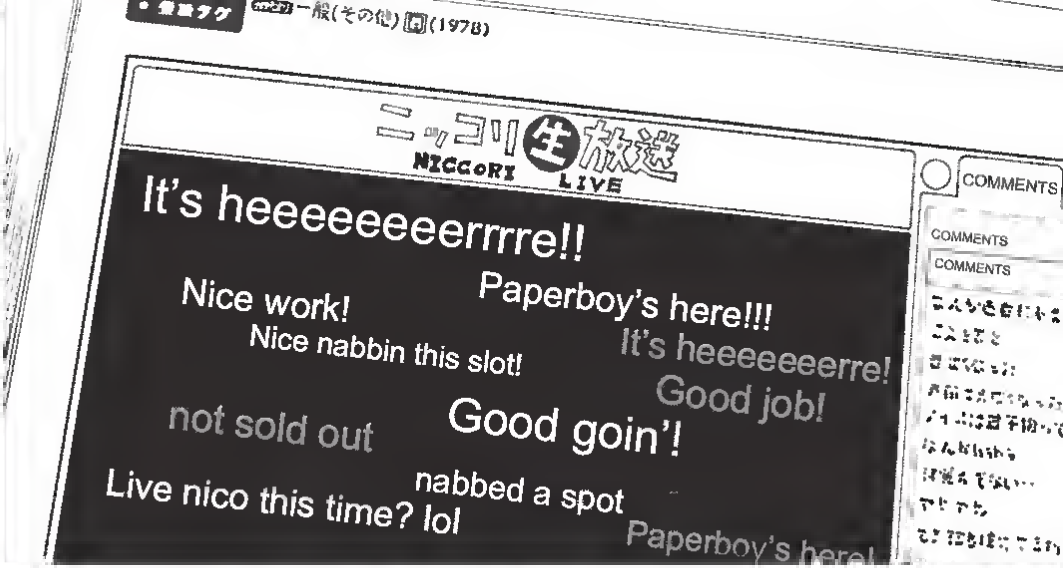
Sorry ...
I'm very sorry, sir...
HUSSHH...
KLAKKLAK
klakklak
klakklak
haa
haa

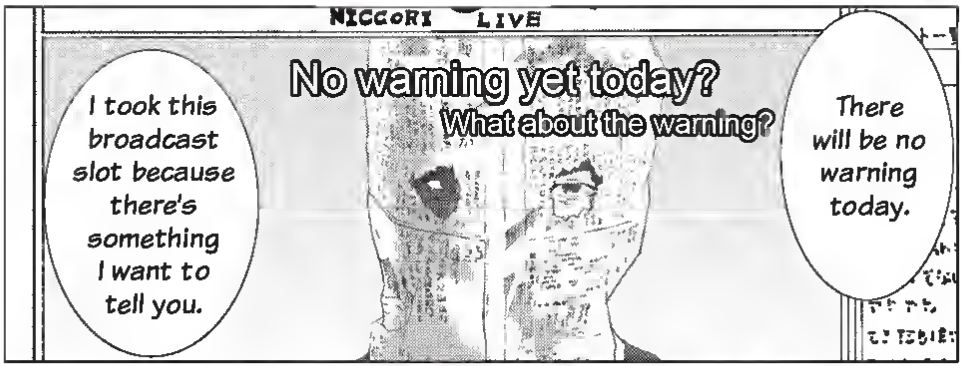
!
Un
...
Can I ask you to go clean or something ?
You can stop.
... Sorry.

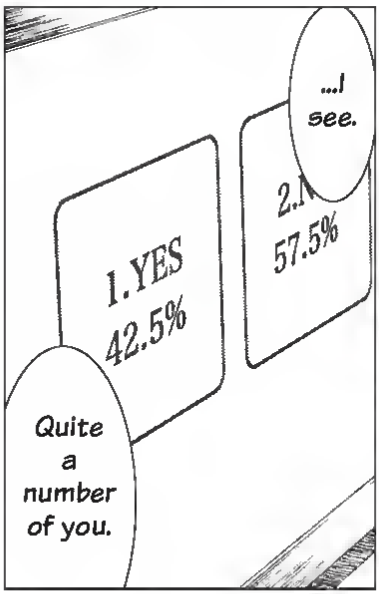
It's my fault for giving you too much work.
... No.
I'm to blame.
KDAK
I- I'm sorry!
I just... drifted off for a second.
I apologize ...
Wha ?
Real- ly?
SQUIK
SQUIK
TWIST

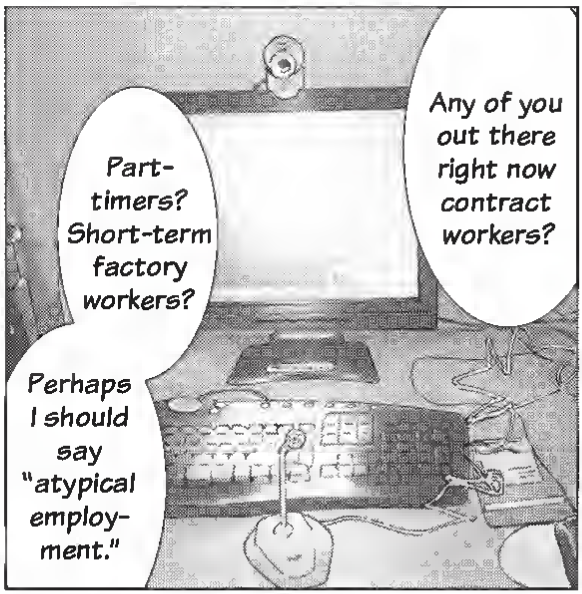
The deadline's actually next week, isn't it.
And that project.
HOLY SHIT, YOU'RE SCARY!
Aaagh! You're a mon-ster!
If he fucks it up, what happens to the company's cred, huh?
Of course it is.
I'm not gonna give some pipsqueak temp a job with a tight deadline!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
Well... Either way, I hope he quits, and soon.

'cause he's totally useless.
...
BIP

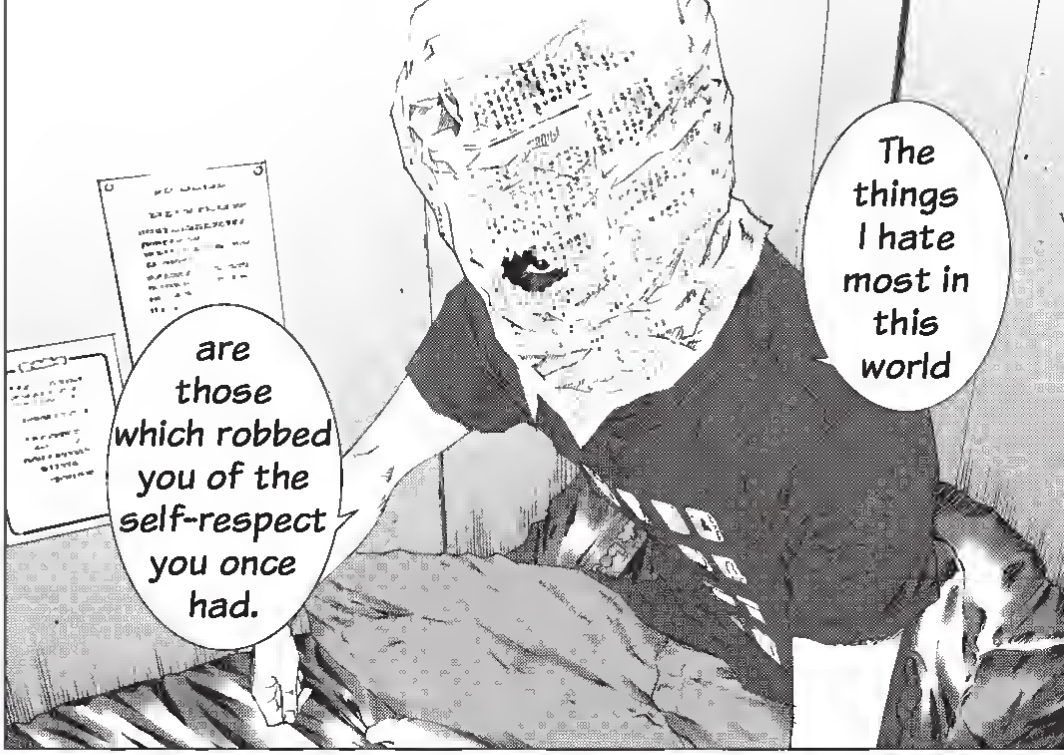

NICCORI LIVE
It's heeeeeeeerrrre!!
Nice work!
Paperboy's here!!!
Nice nabbin this slot!
It's heeeeeeeerre!
Good job!
not sold out
Good goin'!
Live nico this time? lol
nabbed a spot
COMMENTS
COMMENTS
COMMENTS

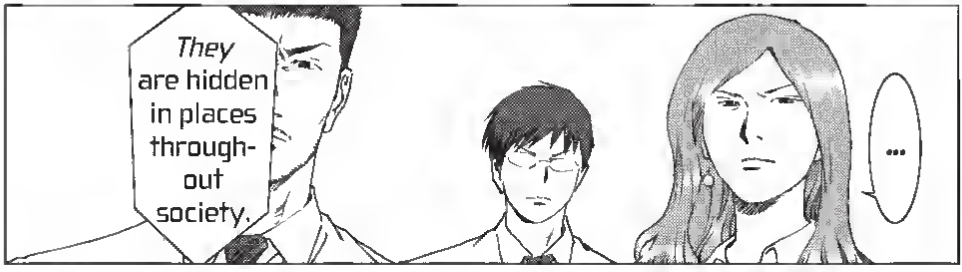

NICCORI LIVE
No warning yet today?
What about the warning?
I took this broadcast slot because there's something I want to tell you.
There will be no warning today.

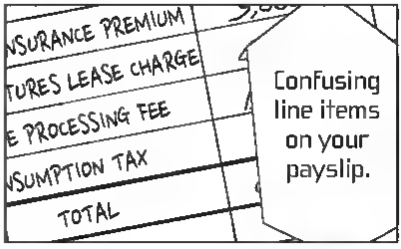

1.YES
42.5%
57.5%
...I see.
Quite a number of you.

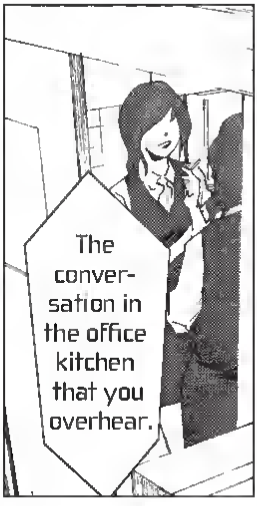

Part-timers? Short-term factory workers?
Any of you out there right now contract workers?
Perhaps I should say "atypical employment."

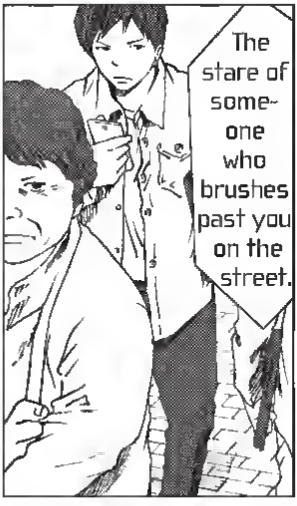
Live on Niccori ?!
Lieu-ten-ant Yo-shi-no!
The Paper-boy is broad-casting live on Niccori!
He's saying there's something he wants to say.
Well ...
It's not the usual warning video post, is it.
but that's not a condition which I can call "living."
If they lose that, they can pretend they're still alive
Without self-respect, a person cannot survive.

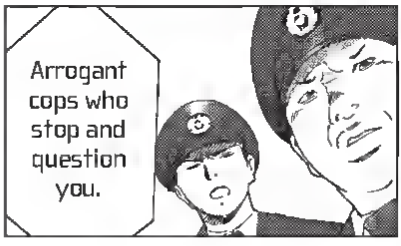

The things I hate most in this world
are those which robbed you of the self-respect you once had.


They are hidden in places throughout society.
...


NSURANCE PREMIUM
TURES LEASE CHARGE
E PROCESSING FEE
NSUMPTION TAX
TOTAL
Confusing line items on your payslip.

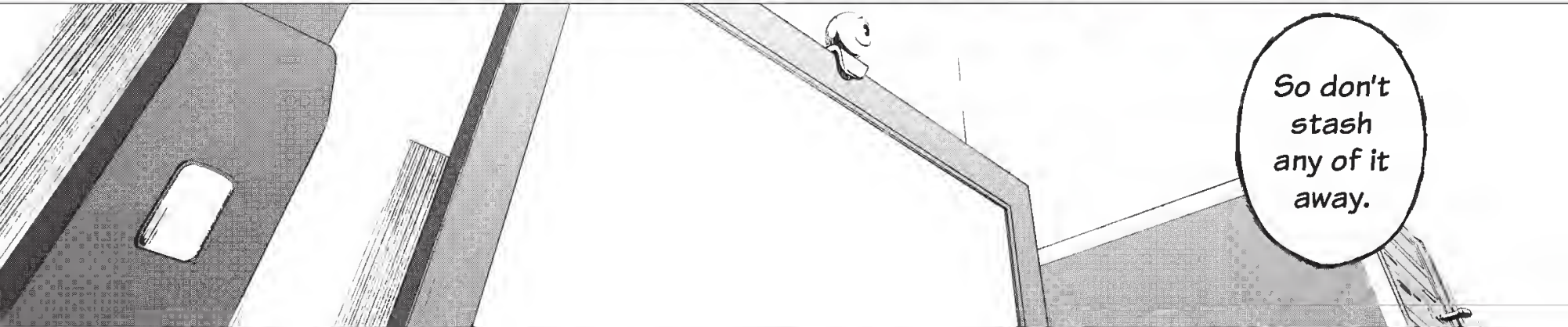

The conversation in the office kitchen that you overhear.


The stare of someone who brushes past you on the street.


Arrogant cops who stop and question you.

Yes ... I get it.
but that pent-up resentment you feel right now?
I cannot improve the quality of your lives
I can relieve you of that, just a little.
if someone wounds your pride without cause, tell me about it.
From now on

I SWEAR I WILL.
I WILL KILL THEM.


So don't stash any of it away.

onymous
n a woman, but I think h
as a point.

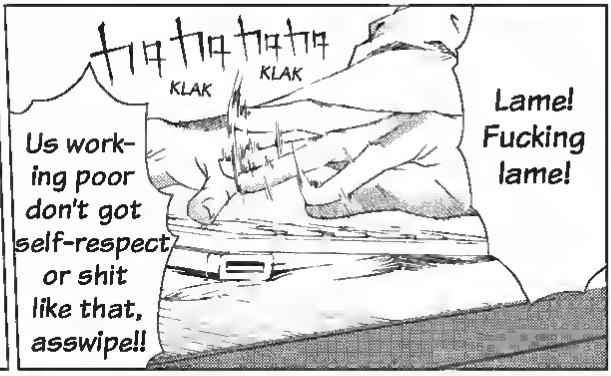
nonymous
ot fuckall to do with wom
n lol

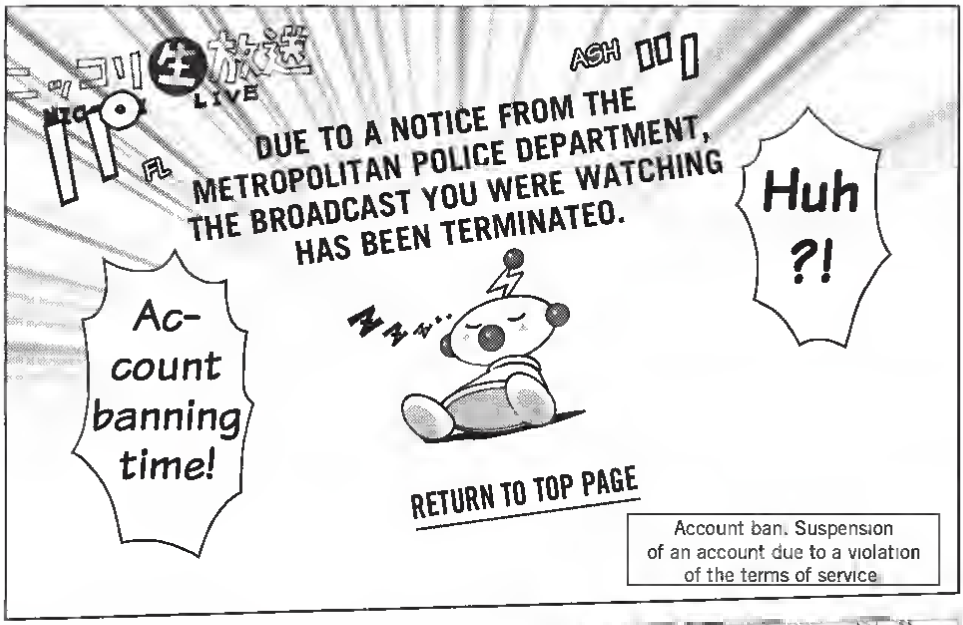
91. Anonymous
Yeah there's jerks like
this at my office. Only the
ones who're totally fuckin
useless have an overblo
sense of pride.

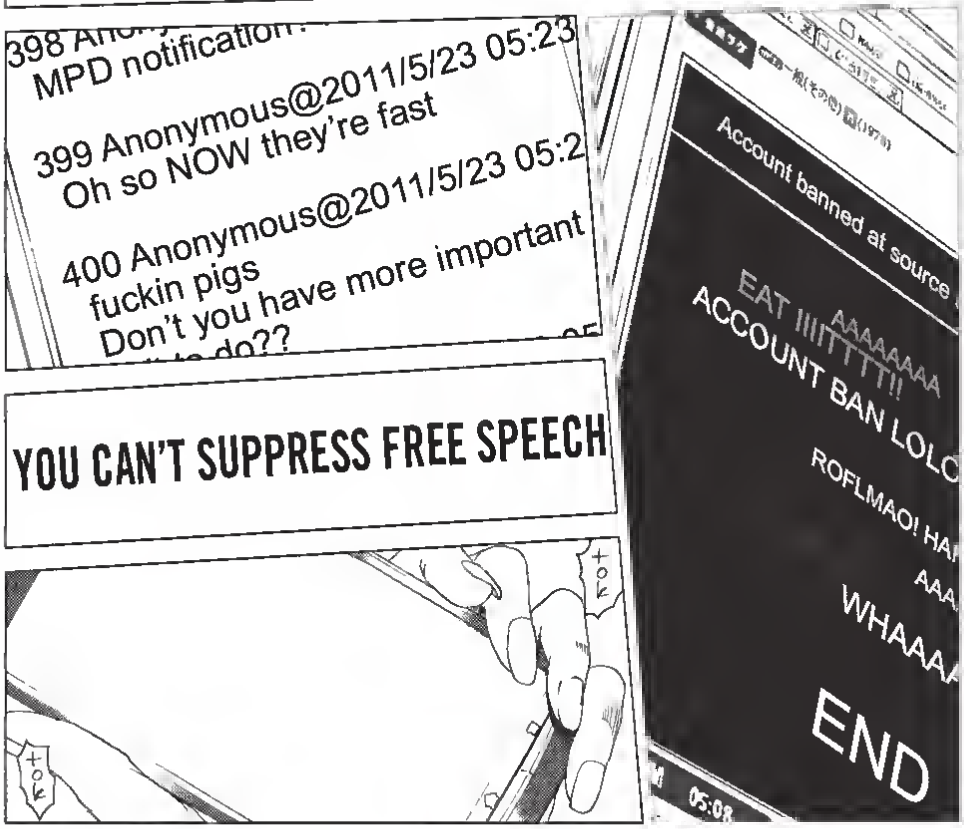
692. Anonymous
Feels like I've been waiti
forever to hear someone
say this. I've been a part
net lynchings trying to ta
my mind off things, but i
just empty and pathetic.
so totally pathetic you c

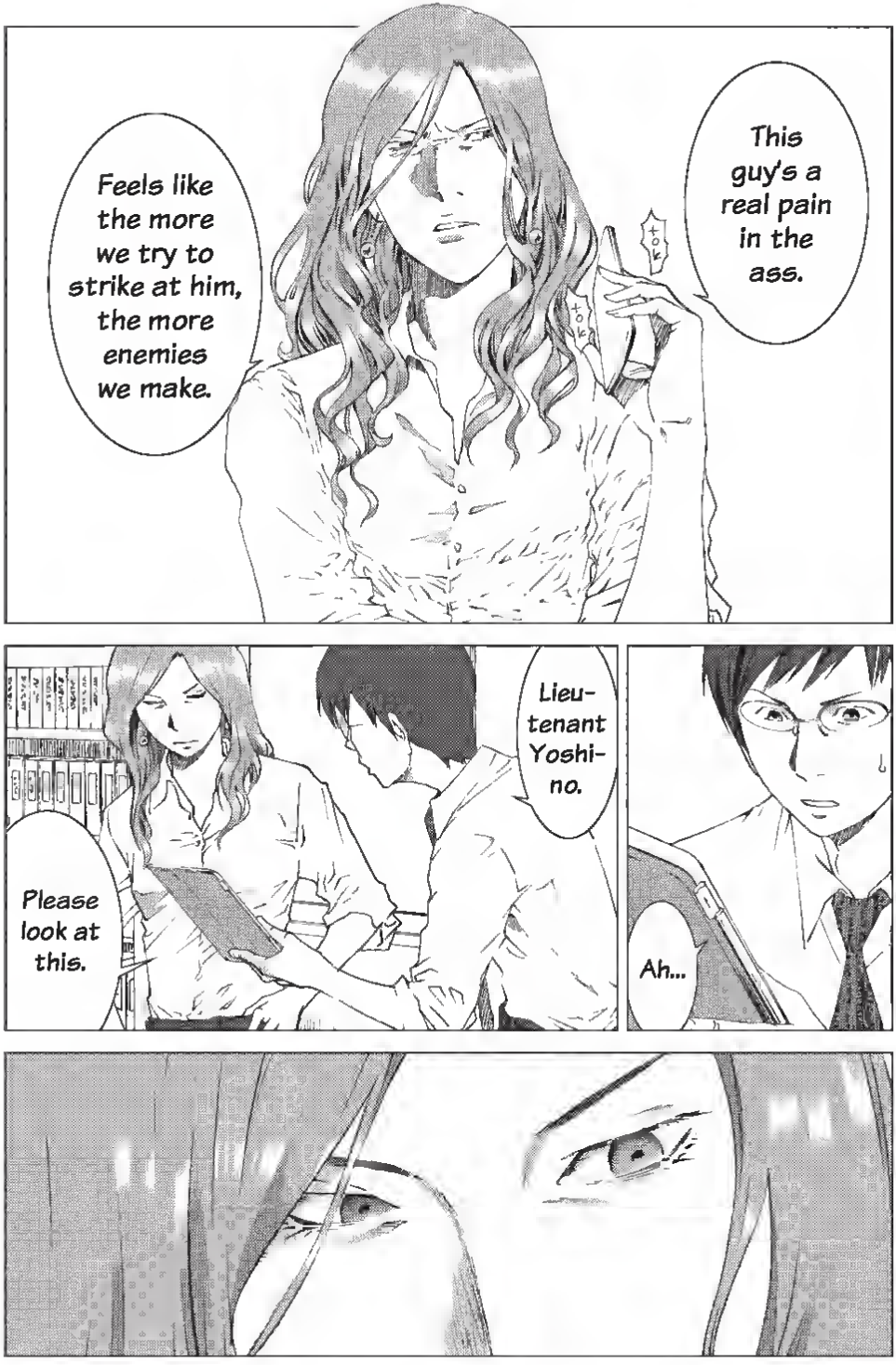
693. Anonymous
@692 Fuck off.

694. Anonymous
@692 Please stop!

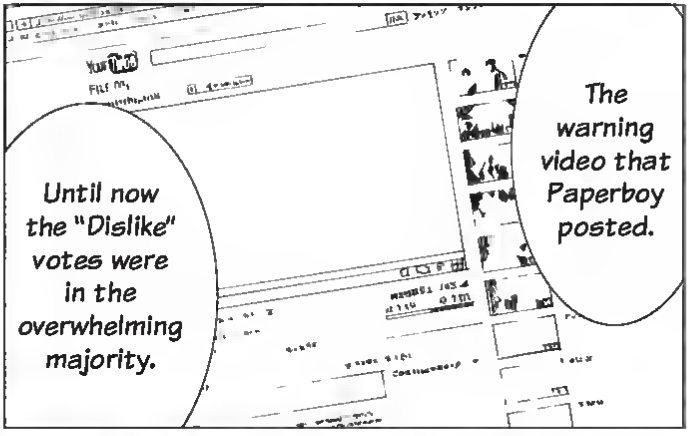


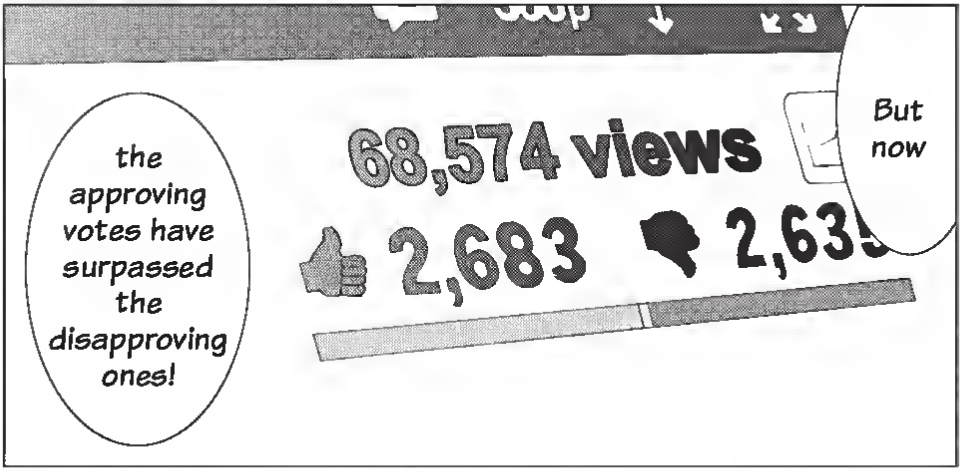

DUE TO A NOTICE FROM THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE BROADCAST YOU WERE WATCHING HAS BEEN TERMINATED.
Huh ?!
Ac- count banning time!
RETURN TO TOP PAGE
Account ban. Suspension of an account due to a violation of the terms of service


MPD notification
399 Anonymous@2011/5/23 05:23
Oh so NOW they're fast
400 Anonymous@2011/5/23 05:2
fuckin pigs
Don't you have more important
Account banned at source
AAAAAAAA
EAT IIIITTTT!!
ACCOUNT BAN LOLC
ROFLMAO! HA
AAA
WHAAAA
END
YOU CAN'T SUPPRESS FREE SPEECH


Feels like the more we try to strike at him, the more enemies we make.
This guy's a real pain in the ass.
TOK
TOK
Please look at this.
Lieu-tenant Yoshi-no.
Ah...

What's wrong ?
I can't believe this is happening.
No way ...

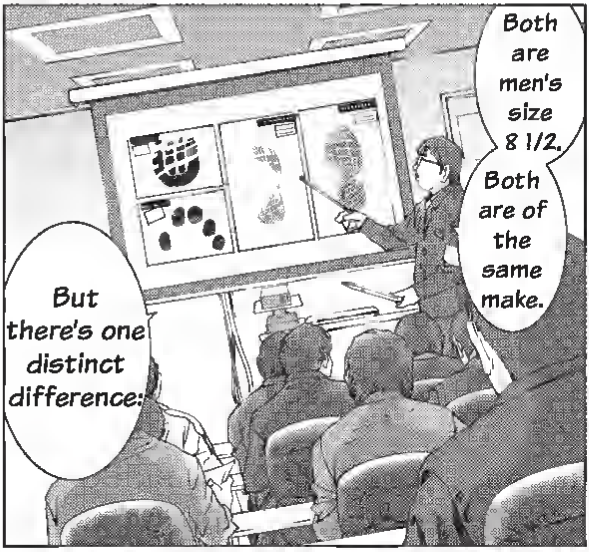

Until now the "Dislike" votes were in the overwhelming majority.
The warning video that Paperboy posted.


the approving votes have surpassed the disapproving ones!
68,574 views
2,683
But now

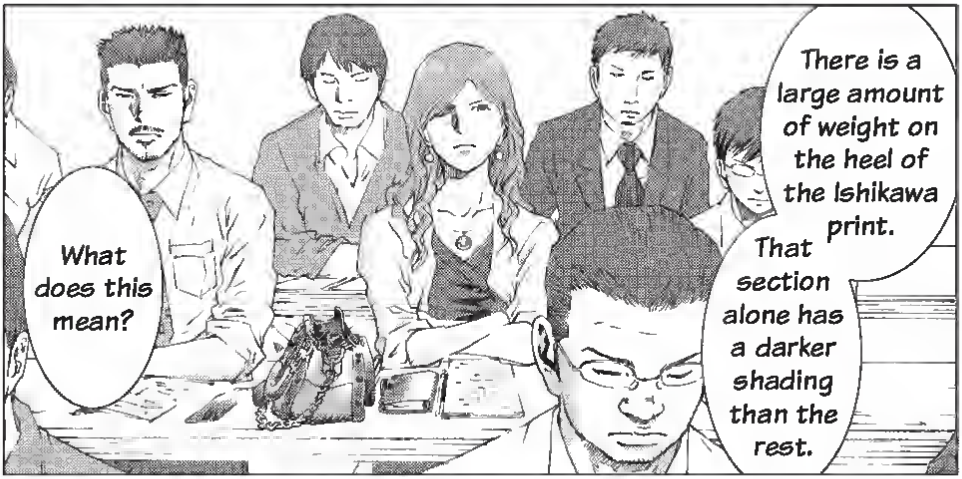
PROPHECY

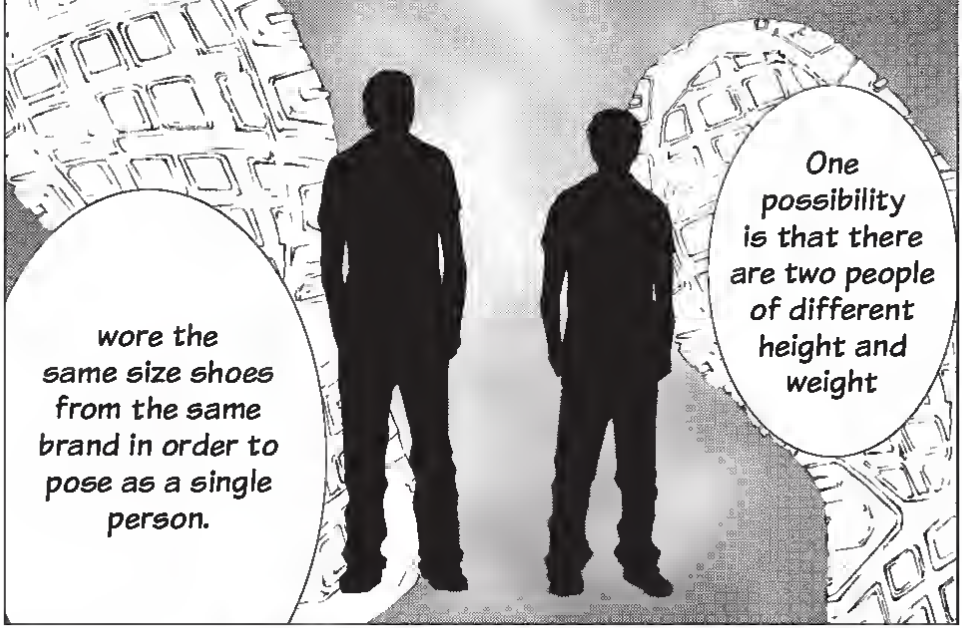
File 005

FLASH
These are footprints from the site of the assault yesterday at the apartment in O Ward.


Both are men's size 8 1/2.
Both are of the same make.
But there's one distinct difference:

They match those found
at the site of the food processor arson in Ishikawa Prefecture on May 21.
FORENSICS

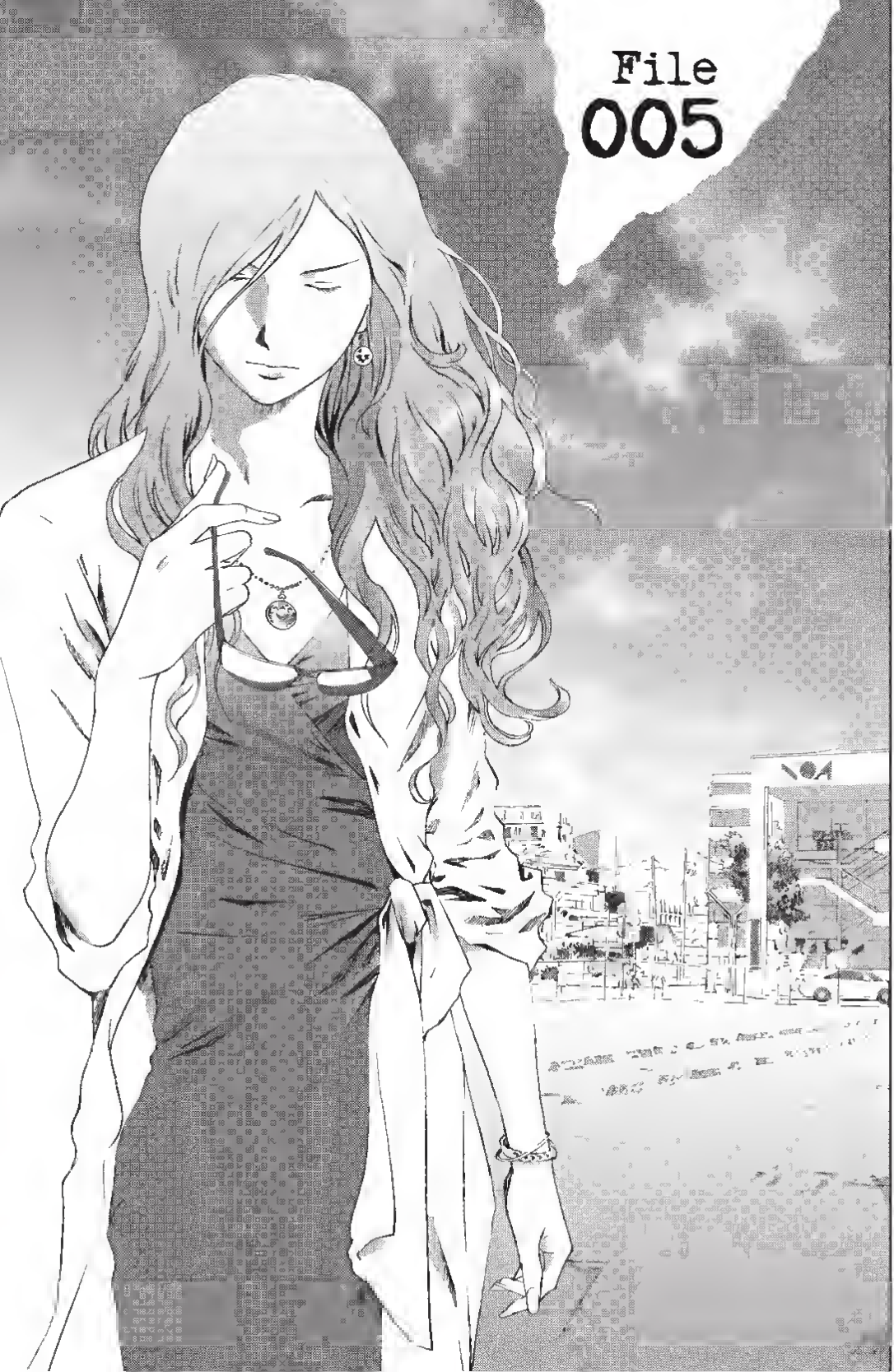

What does this mean?
There is a large amount of weight on the heel of the Ishikawa print.
That section alone has a darker shading than the rest.

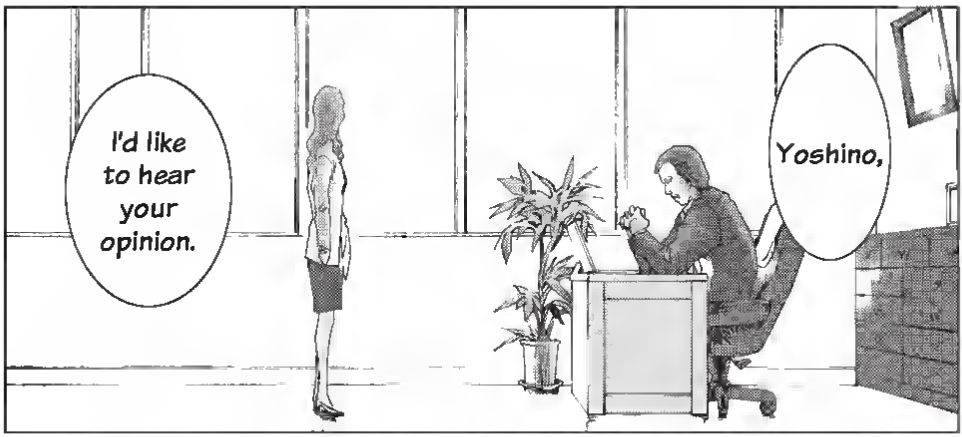

One possibility is that there are two people of different height and weight
wore the same size shoes from the same brand in order to pose as a single person.

The feet of the man in Ishikawa were too big
so he could only wear the shoes by smashing down the heels.

We can't really say any more than that...
But we can assume it's highly probable
that a coconspirator is involved in this series of crimes.

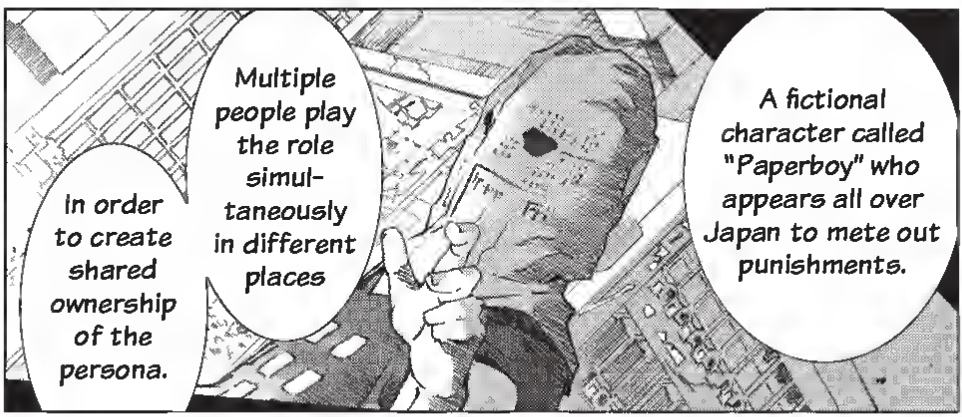
Shoes that didn't fit...
What for?
Senior Superintendent
KOTARO TAKAGI


File
005

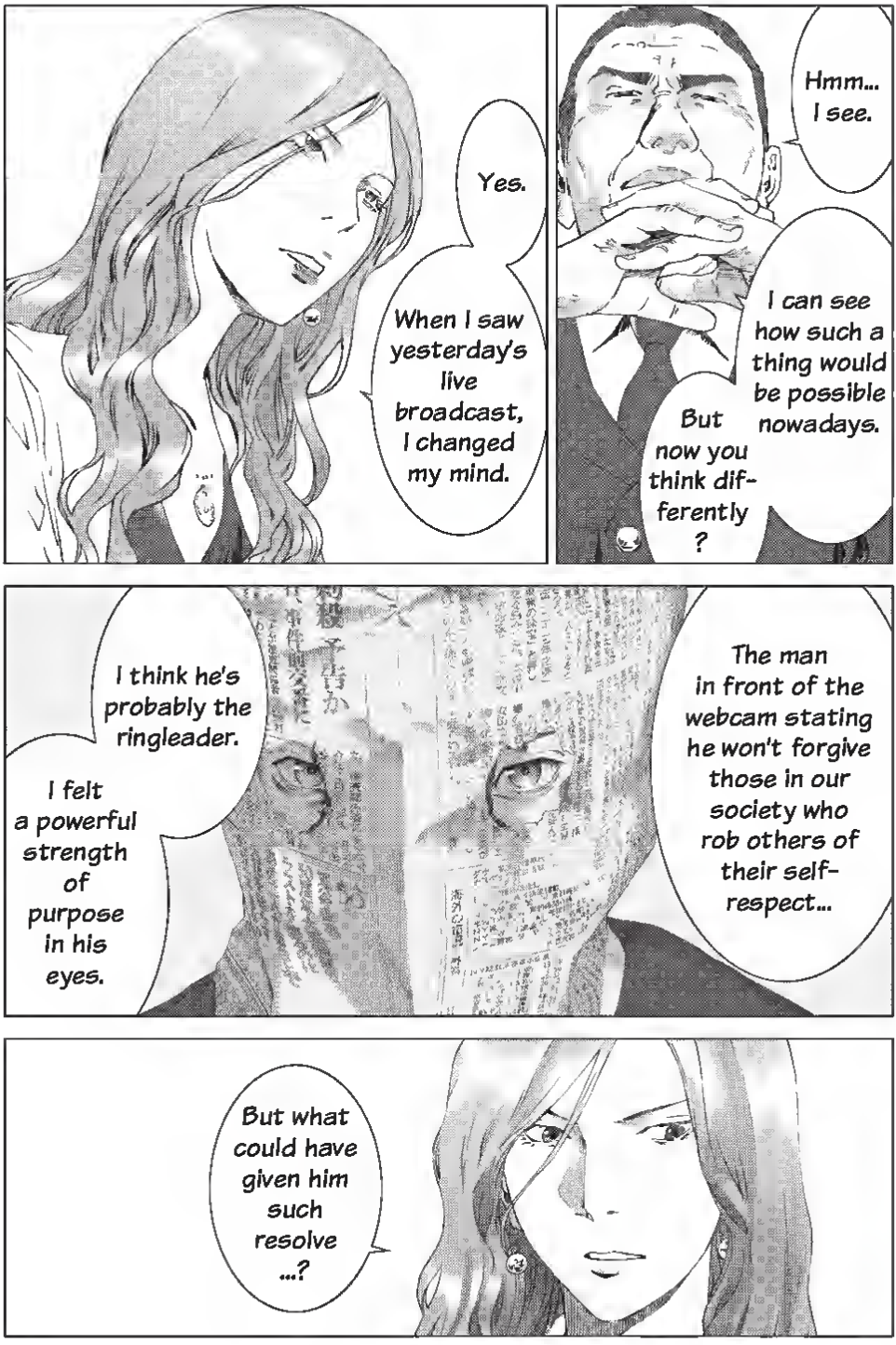

I'd like to hear your opinion.
Yoshino,

I still don't know their true goals,
but their primary aim
is to fashion a shared character, I believe.

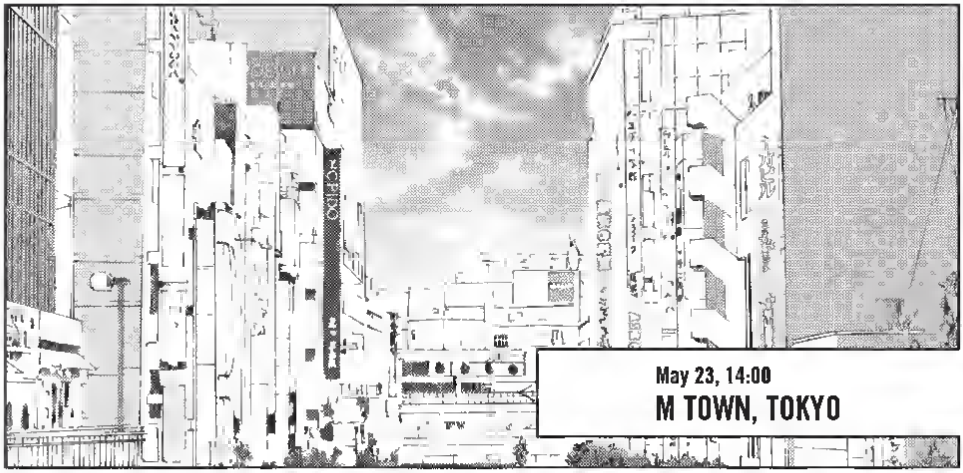
Your predictions tend to be right.
I'll ask point-blank:
Just what is it that they want?

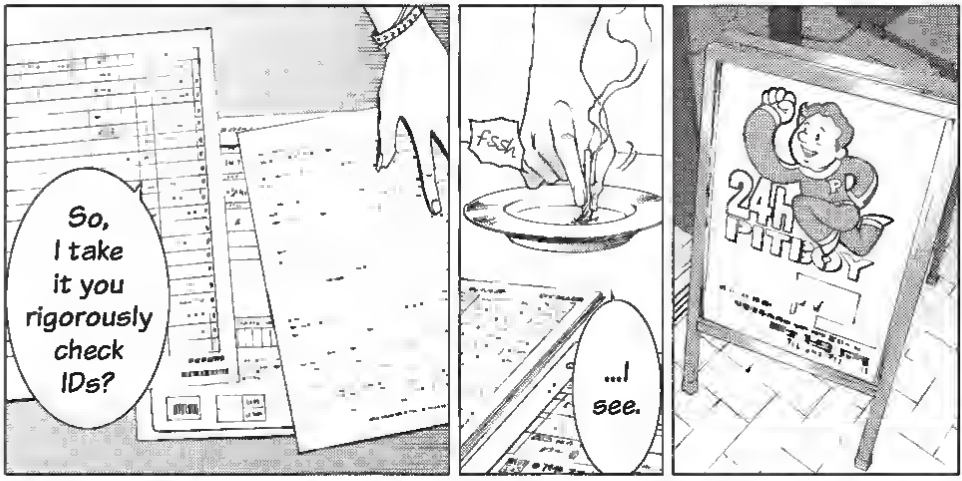

Multiple people play the role simultaneously in different places
In order to create shared ownership of the persona.
A fictional character called "Paperboy" who appears all over Japan to mete out punishments.

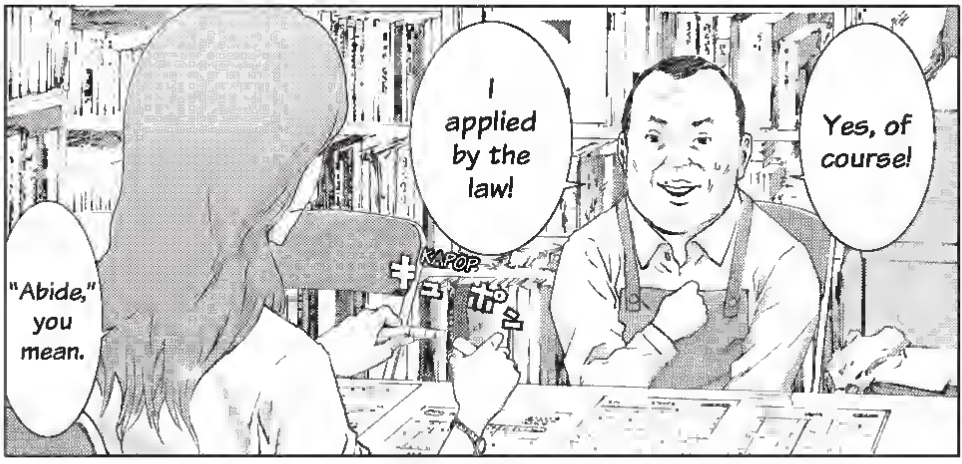
At first, I thought this string of crimes could be explained by the "smart mob" concept.
A shared character.
The same clothes even the same shoes, eh?
The concept is a totally new manifestation of group power that's impossible with traditional media.
People with highly-developed information devices meeting and then acting in concert online.
What's a smart mob?
I thought this was basically the scenario.
then a kind of group mentality comes into play, and it becomes impossible to curb.
Eventually, people emerge who begin actually carrying out crimes,
They half-jokingly chat about planning crimes without ever knowing each other's names or faces.
Users meet each other on anonymous message boards online.

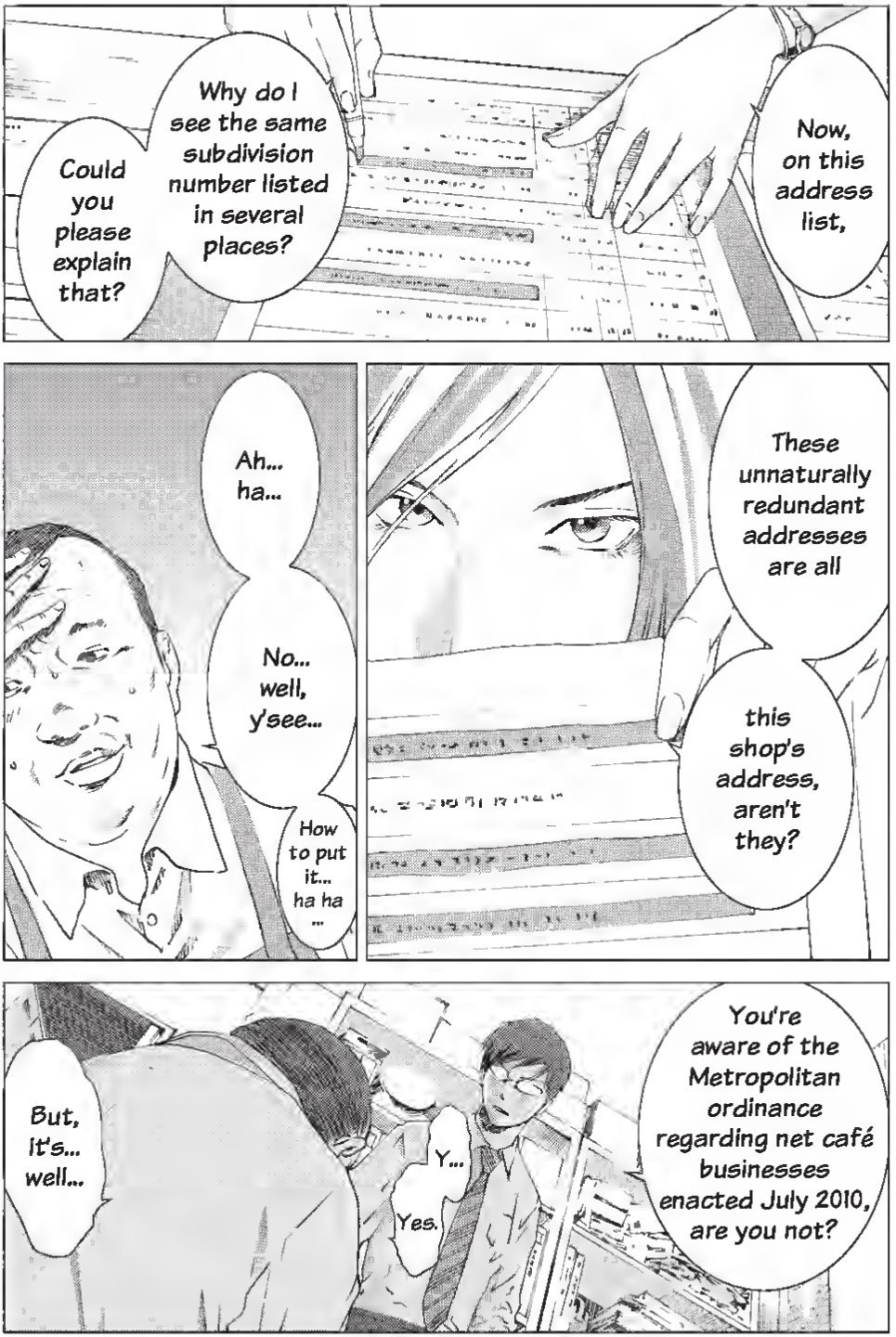

Yes.
When I saw yesterday's live broadcast, I changed my mind.
Hmm... I see.
I can see how such a thing would be possible nowadays.
But now you think differently?
I think he's probably the ringleader.
I felt a powerful strength of purpose in his eyes.
The man in front of the webcam stating he won't forgive those in our society who rob others of their self-respect...
But what could have given him such resolve ...?

We have a report from the Cyber Force.
Lieutenant Yoshino.
ガチャ
Excuse me.
but the original source of the transmission was here.
The springboard was the net café in A City, Kanagawa Prefecture ...
They finally worked out the posting location of FILE001.
Tokyo ?
Inside ...

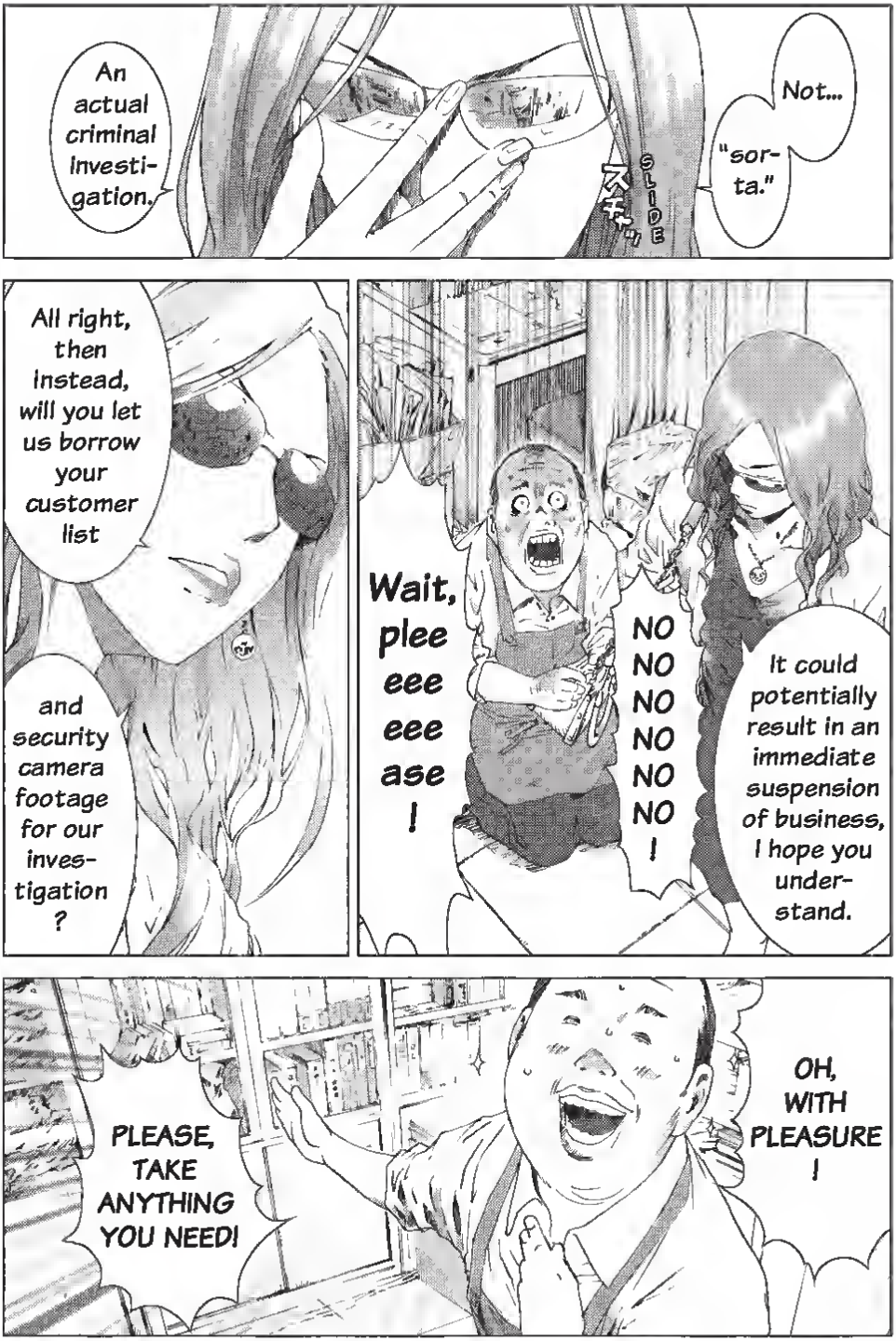

May 23, 14:00
M TOWN, TOKYO

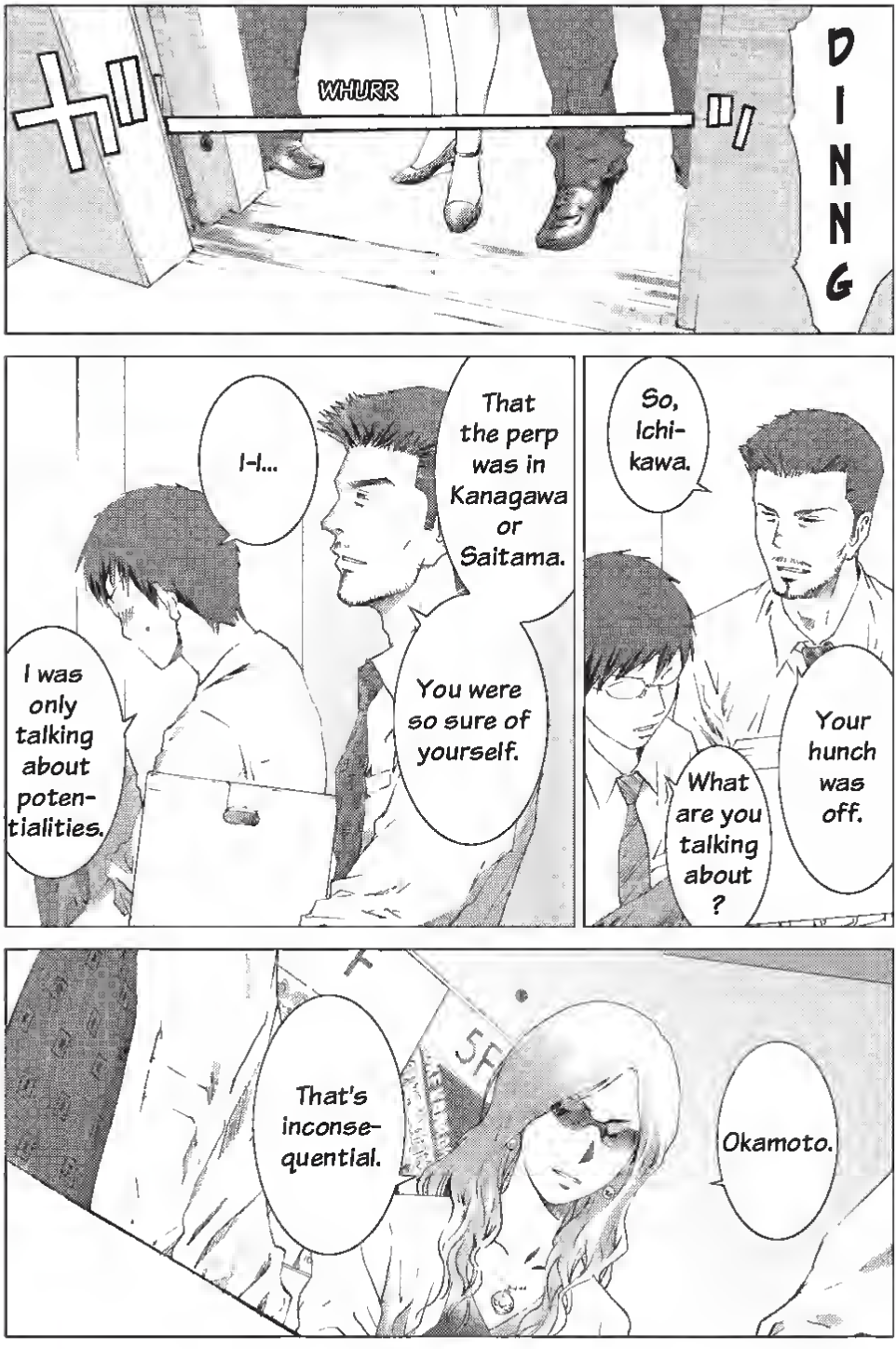

So, I take it you rigorously check IDs?
fssh
...I see.
24h PITBOY


"Abide," you mean.
I applied by the law!
KAPOP
Yes, of course!

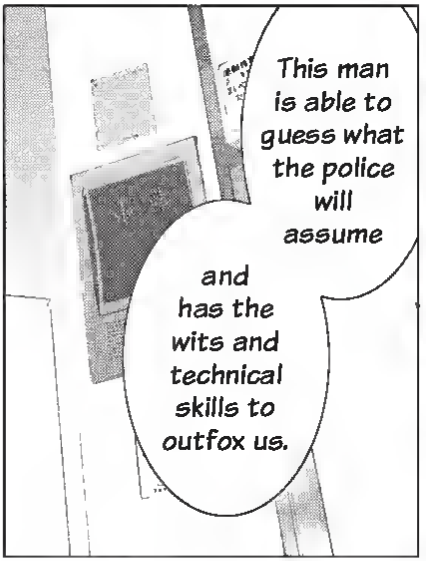

Now, on this address list,
Why do I see the same subdivision number listed in several places?
Could you please explain that?
These unnaturally redundant addresses are all
this shop's address, aren't they?
Ah... ha...
No... well, y'see...
How to put it... ha ha ...
You're aware of the Metropolitan ordinance regarding net café businesses enacted July 2010, are you not?
Y...
Yes.
But, it's... well...

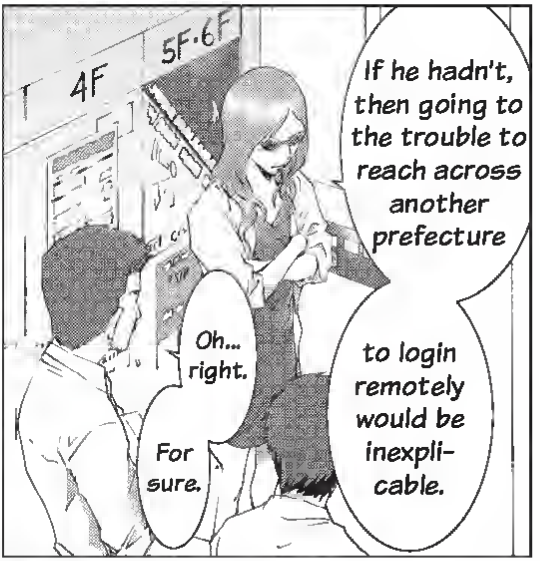
I'd put in this address in their place, so...
So I mean, I feel like maybe I did that or maybe I didn't but...
And well, some of those older customers didn't have any ID...
It's just tempo-rary...
Yes, a temp mea-sure.
But the thing is
to bother those who were customers before the ordinance was enacted to produce ID yet again... that's a little...
Now then, we'll go get a search warrant from court
and we'll conduct an official investigation with full legal force.
A... A war-rant ?!
Wha aaa aaa ...!
STRIKE-OUT!
Like an in-vestiga-tion... ...sorta ?
Th- That's ...

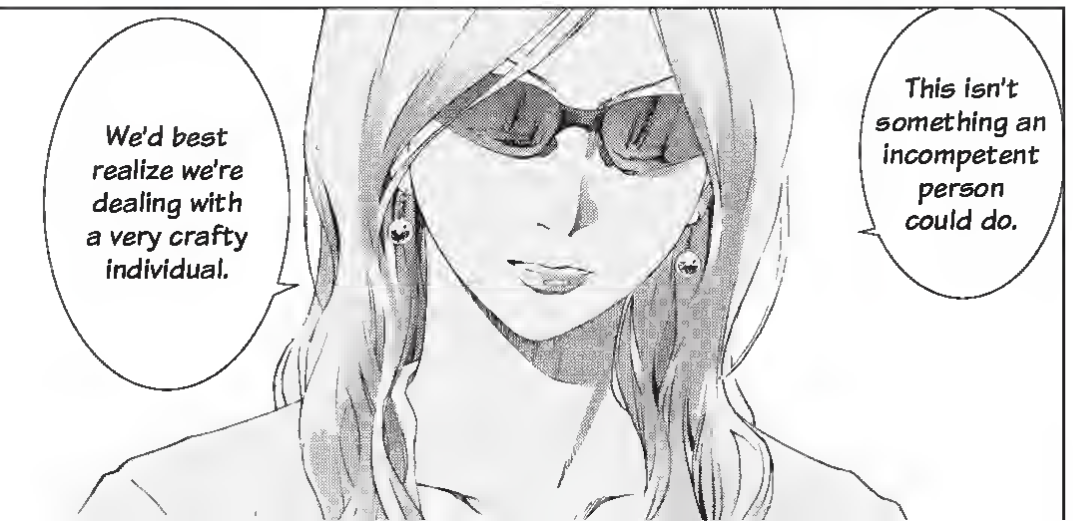

An actual criminal investigation.
SLIDE
スキ
Not... "sorta."
All right, then instead, will you let us borrow your customer list
and security camera footage for our investigation?
Wait, pleeeeeeease!
NO NO NO NO NO NO!
It could potentially result in an immediate suspension of business, I hope you understand.
PLEASE, TAKE ANYTHING YOU NEED!
OH, WITH PLEASURE!


WHURR
DINNG
So, Ichikawa.
Your hunch was off.
What are you talking about?
That the perp was in Kanagawa or Saitama.
You were so sure of yourself.
I-I...
I was only talking about potentialities.
Okamoto.
That's inconsequential.
5F

What's important is that our criminal anticipated beforehand that we'd think
that he was likely to avoid using any Tokyo branches.


This man is able to guess what the police will assume
and has the wits and technical skills to outfox us.


4F
5F·6F
If he hadn't, then going to the trouble to reach across another prefecture
to login remotely would be inexplicable.
Oh... right.
For sure.

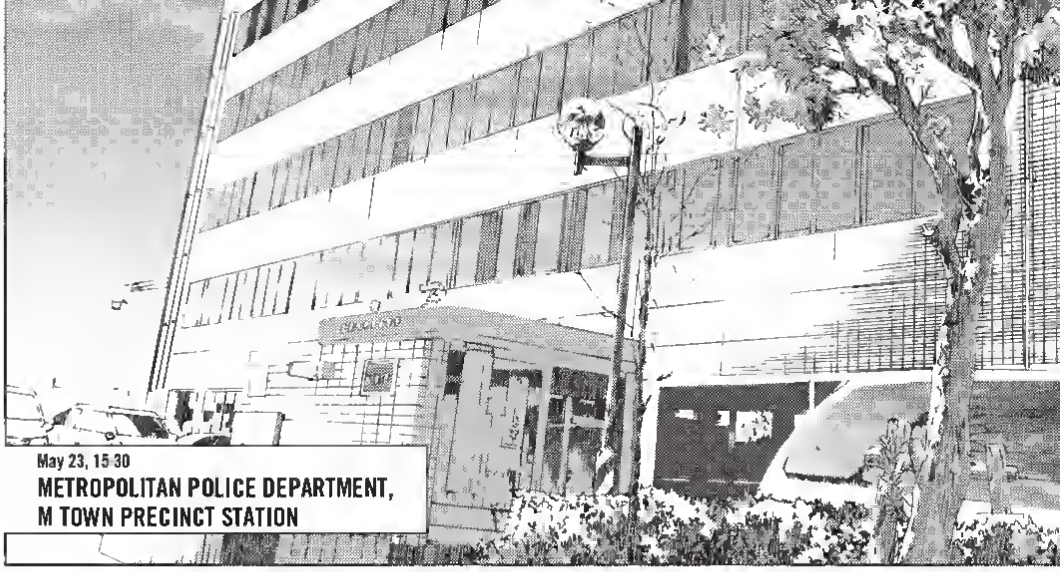

We'd best realize we're dealing with a very crafty individual.
This isn't something an incompetent person could do.

We may be able to take advantage of that.
However, the criminal does not yet know that we know.
Not a night owl?
Oh... no.
But you're still so young.
I just, erm...
For now, let's book the monitor room at the local precinct and check the videos.
A-All night ...?
Might take us all night.
...
A very crafty individual, huh...
to get the boss to admit he's smart ...
To think someone was able

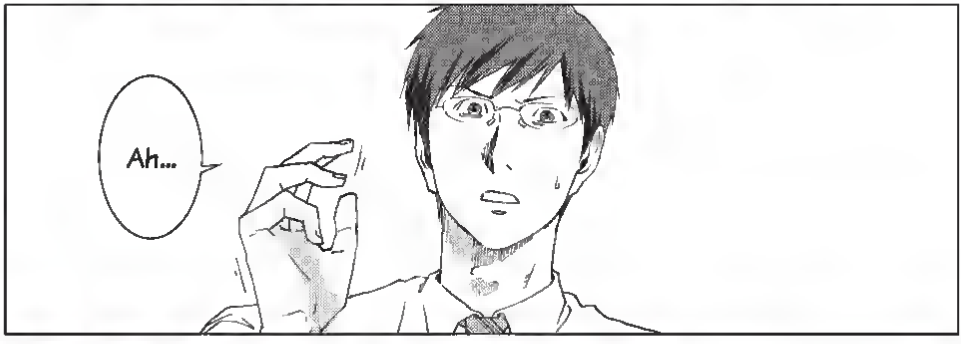
psst
psft
psft
SQUEEEK
UH
UHN
KLEE
KLEE

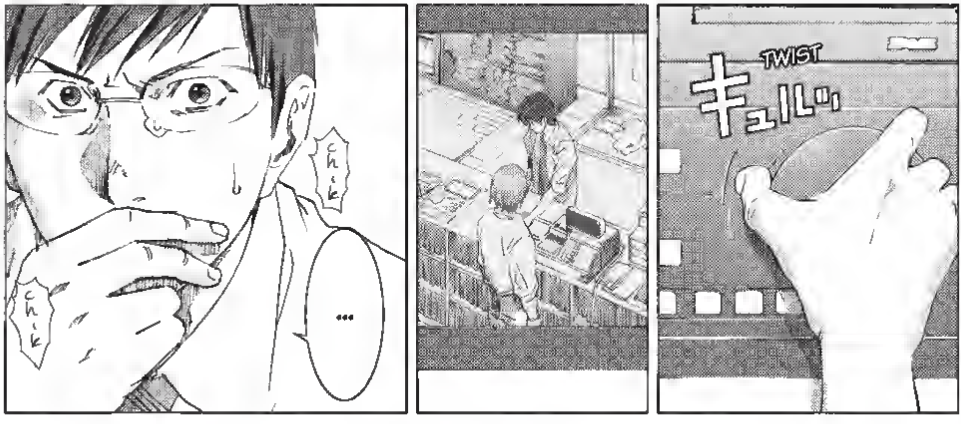
HAA
HAA
Ahn !
グイッ
sqgg
sqgg

Apf !
AAH!
AH!
HAA
HAA
KREAK
KREAK

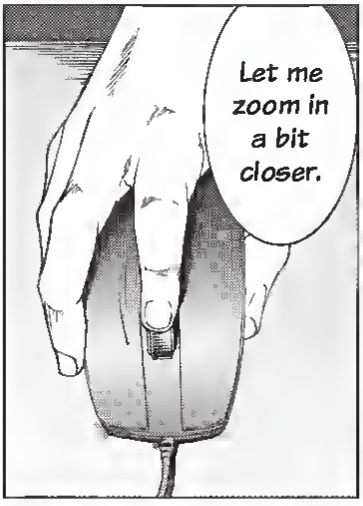

May 23, 15:30
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT,
M TOWN PRECINCT STATION

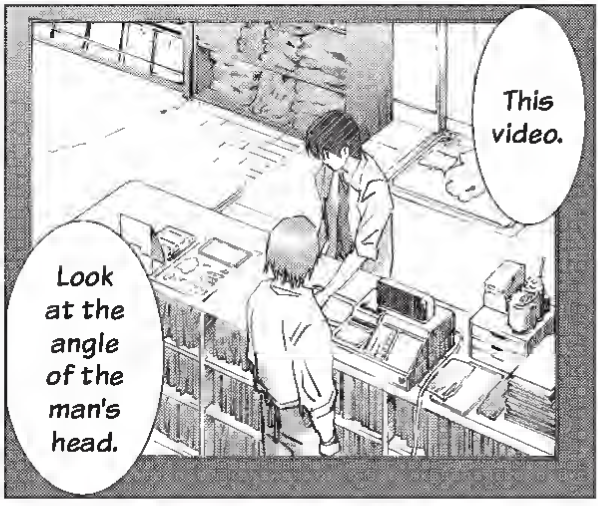
COMPUTER
ROOM
PC ROOM
In Use
Metro
Police Dept 3 pm
Yoshino

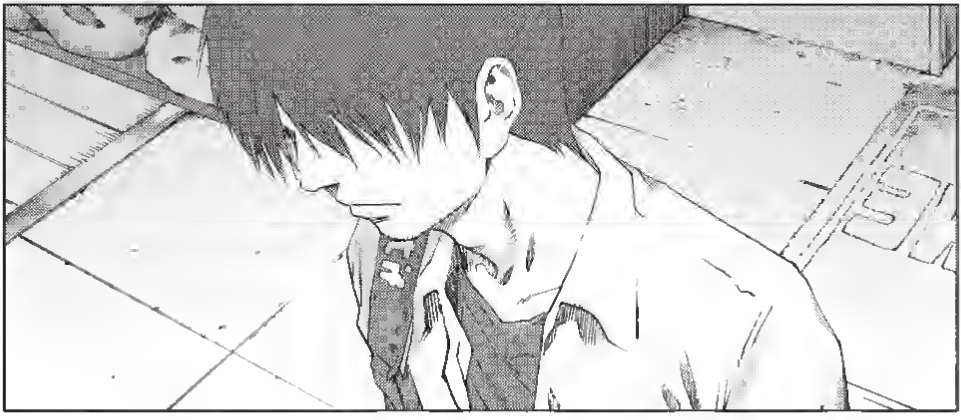

Ah...


chik
chik
...
TWIST
キュルル

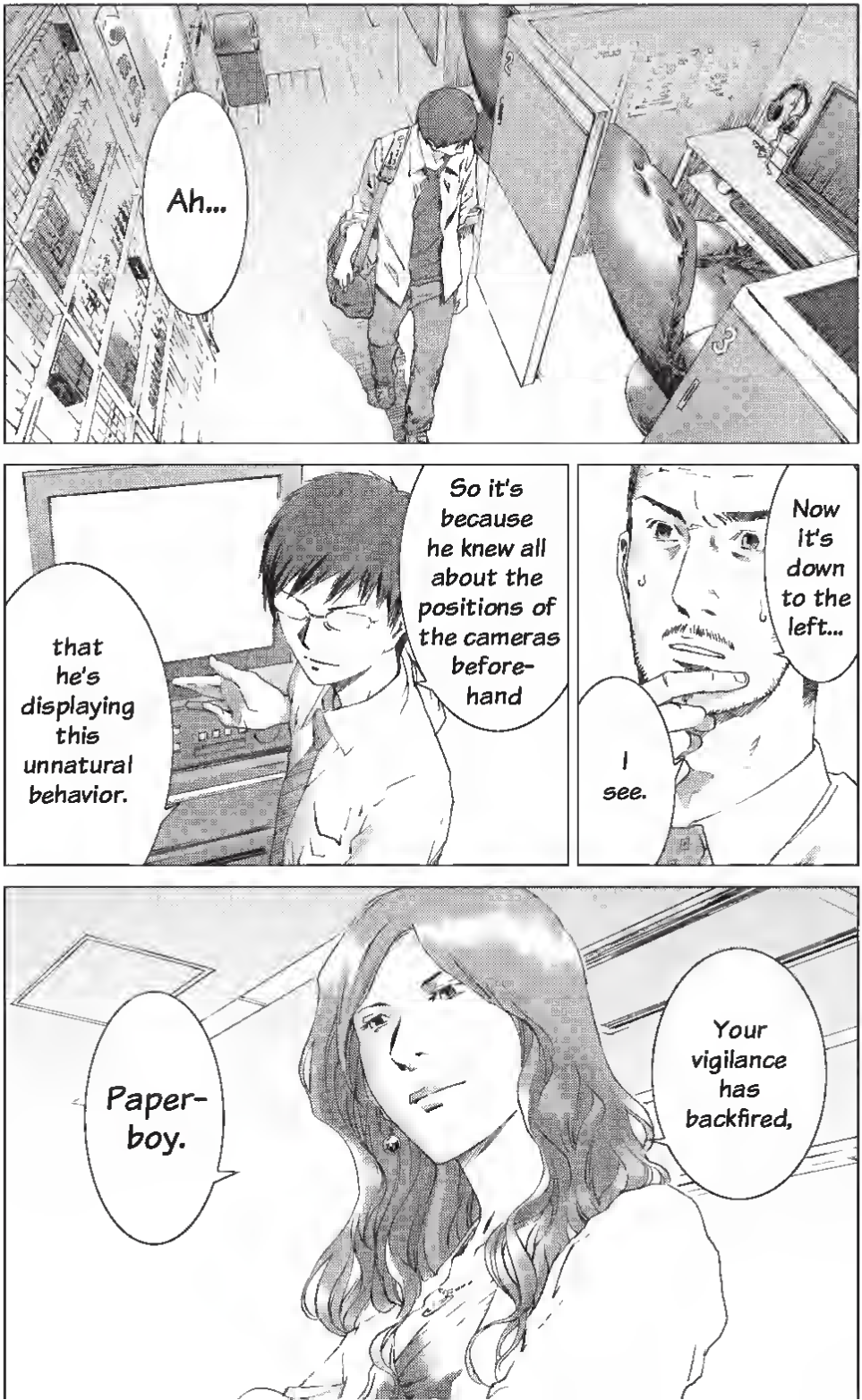
That was fast.
It's probably him.
Oh!
Boss, I've found something.


Let me zoom in a bit closer.


This video.
Look at the angle of the man's head.



But if this video is all we're going on,
couldn't we simply assume that it's a habit?
Or he slept funny?
From the angle of his head
it certainly seems he's conscious of the security camera.
twice failed to pick up his change
yet still stubbornly kept his face angled down.
In that case, he ought to angle his whole body to face the register.
However, this man
...
Here's a video taken from a different angle inside the café.
SNAP
One other thing.


Ah...
So it's because he knew all about the positions of the cameras beforehand
that he's displaying this unnatural behavior.
Now it's down to the left...
I see.
Your vigilance has backfired,
Paperboy.

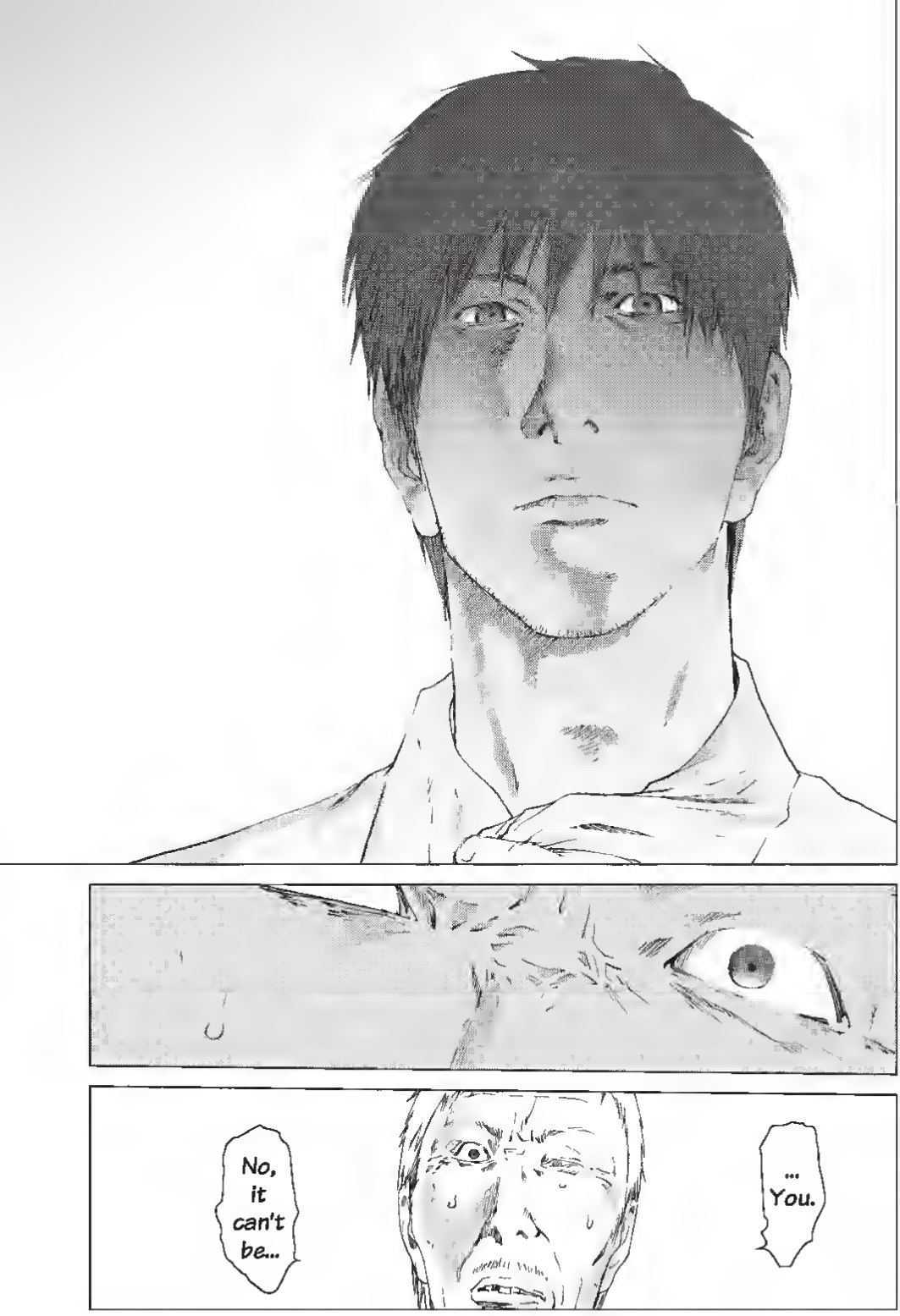
NOMOTO CLEANING
I deeply apologize, sir...
Yes... Yes, sir.
Of course ...
Believe me, I will tell him.
Is that so, sir?
Yes, sir... I'm very sorry.
Yes ...
Oku-daaa !!

'bout what ?
Is there anything you wanna tell me?
Oh,
Is that so.
Do not invade people's privacy, you fucking pervert !!
I just got a furious complaint from a tenant in the Shitaragi Building!
Really ?!
Wha ?!
THANKS TO YOU, THEY'VE CANCELLED OUR CONTRACT NEXT TERM!
DON'T "IS-THAT-SO" ME, DIPSHIT !

...
How you gonna fix this, huh?! I'm serious!!
The contract that my wife
bowed and scraped in order to secure for us!

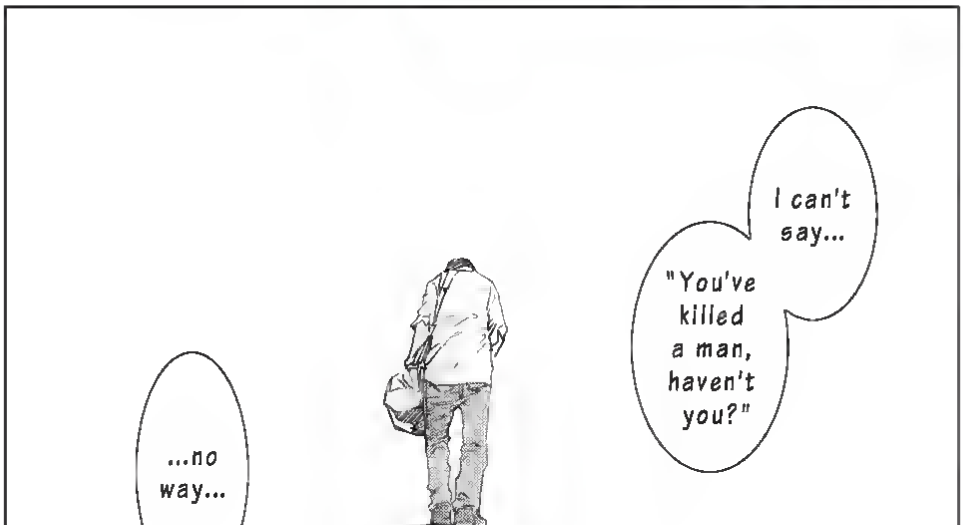
Are we done now?
...I'm real sorry.

WHMM
WHY, YOU !!


No, it can't be...
... You.

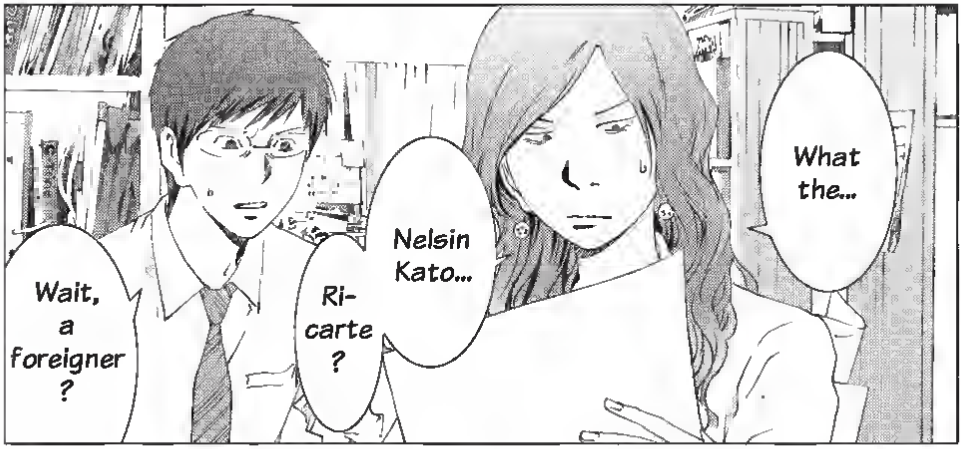
SHFF
It's nothin' at all, OK?
Uh, never mind, it's nothin'.
KNOCK
Hn ?
Thank you ...
Th- This ain't much ...
But take it, please. Consider it severance pay.
What the hell ?!
H... Hang on!
Huh ?!

I...
It's not like I can say it...
What were you gonna say before ?!
You're just gonna shut up and let him go ?!
Huh ?!


I can't say... "You've killed a man, haven't you?"
...no way...

This is the usage log for the afternoon of May 18.
This was the person who used booth 8.
May 23, 16:45
PITBOY, M TOWN BRANCH, TOKYO
24H FITNESS

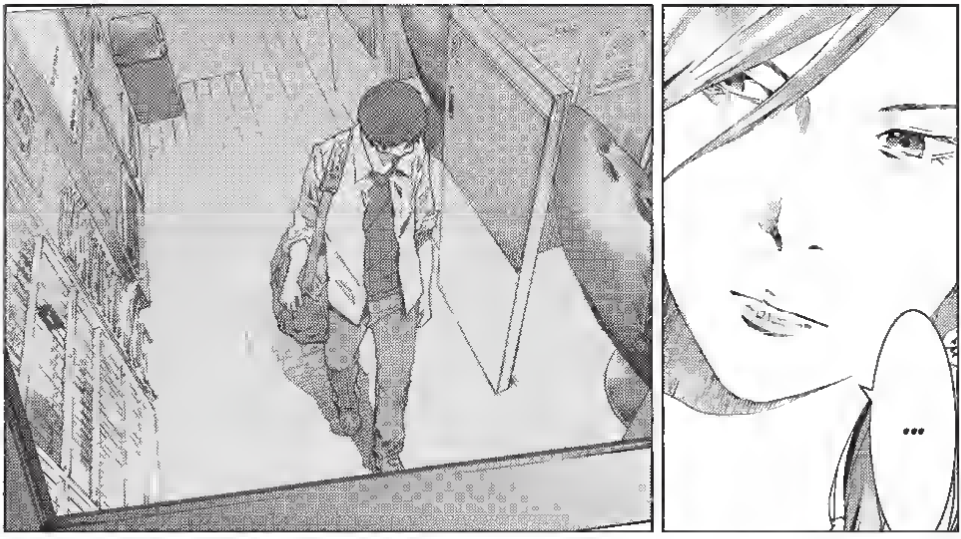
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte


What the...
Nelsin Kato...
Ri-carte ?
Wait, a foreigner ?

I wonder.
I think "Kato" is a name that's used in the West, too.
He could be of Japanese descent.
A parent could have had the Japanese surname "Kato."
But from what we saw in the video, he was clearly Asian, right?
Oh...
Yeah.
His speech was just like a typical Japanese person.
So he wouldn't have needed any ID to register at the time...
His membership card was issued on August 23, 2007,
before the ordinance was enforced.

There could be some reason.
But if so, why would he choose to use such a foreign-sounding name?
Then we can consider the possibility that he completely cooked the name up.

Please do that.
I'll get them to do a search prior to August 2007.
I'll make inquiries at the Immigration Bureau.

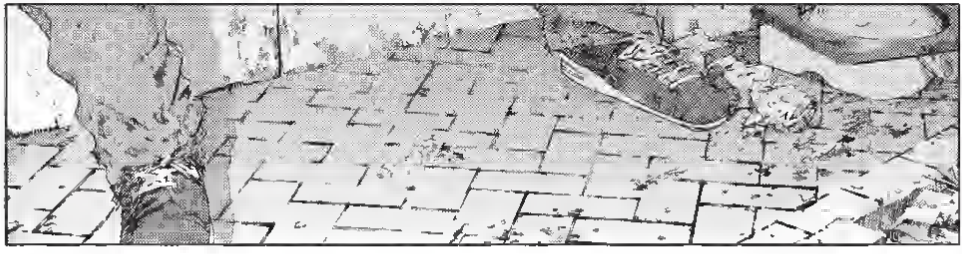

...

...
Nelsin
Kato-
Ricarte...
That's
not your
name
either,
is it,
Paperboy
?

PROPHECY

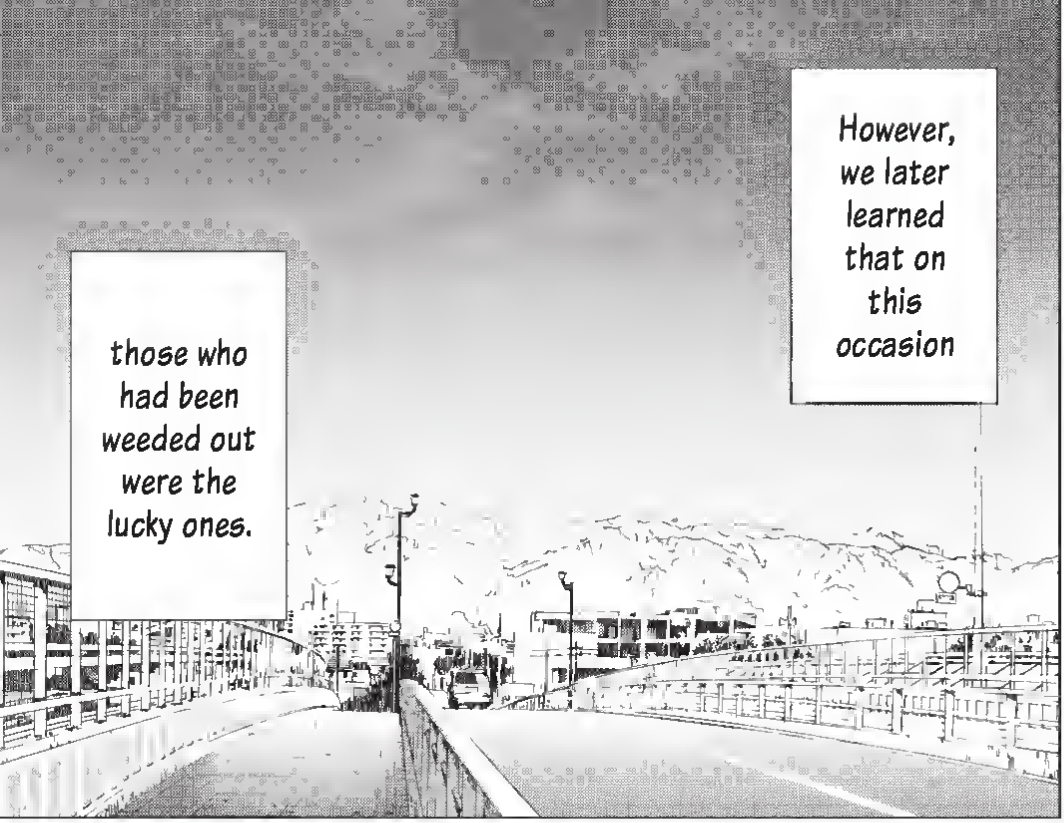
File 006

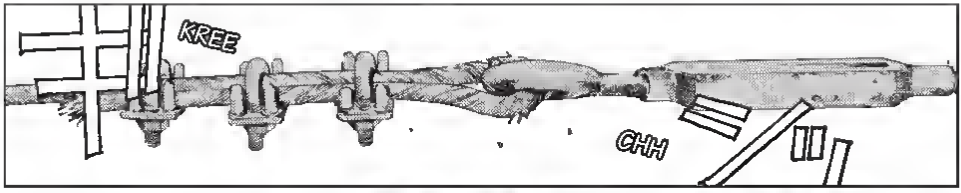
September 20, 2008
4:30 AM

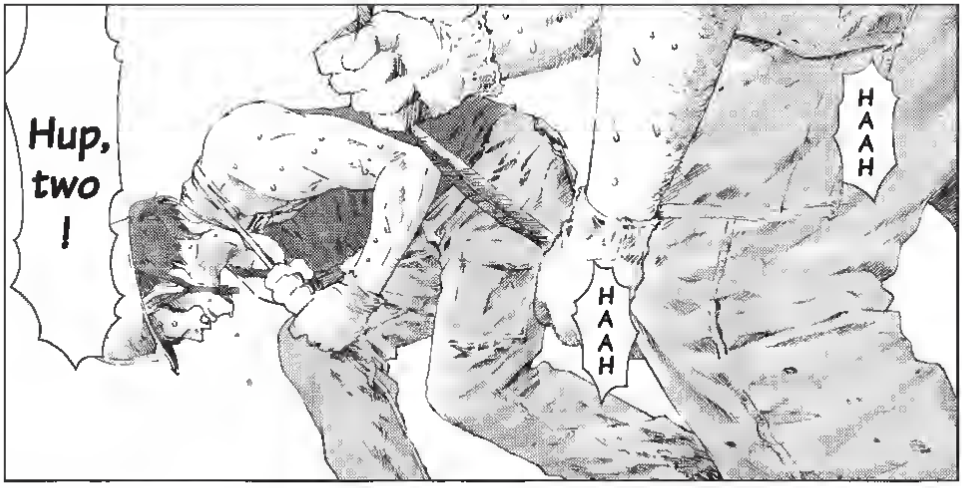


September 20. Once more I've not a single yen to my name.
As always, I've come to the "day labor market" to wait for the "recruiter."
After I got fired from the software company, I started doing day labor.
No interview, resume or prior contact needed.
Just show up at the market and you're picked up as a hired hand.
You can tell who your "coworkers" are just by looking at them
but you never speak with each other.
ブロロロロ
VRRMM

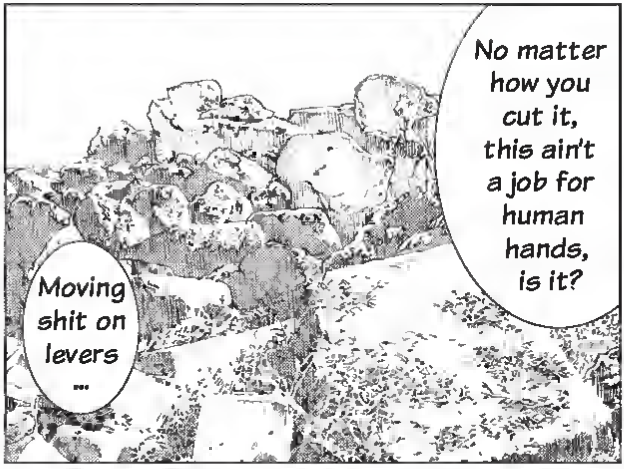
"Light work" really means "no technical skills required."
I guess this, too, is industry jargon.
It definitely does not mean "easy work."
Need 5 guys for light work.
Young fellas get priority.
Let that bro with the glasses on through.
That's it for today.
Hang on there.
Not you.
Some day it'll be me.
Even in this business, if you're too old, you get weeded out.

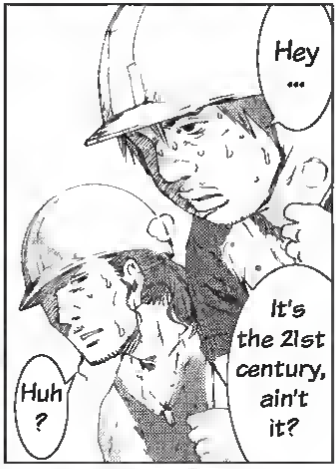

However, we later learned that on this occasion
those who had been weeded out were the lucky ones.


KREE
CHH


Hup, two!
HAAH
HAAH

CREE
CREE
HFF
WHEW

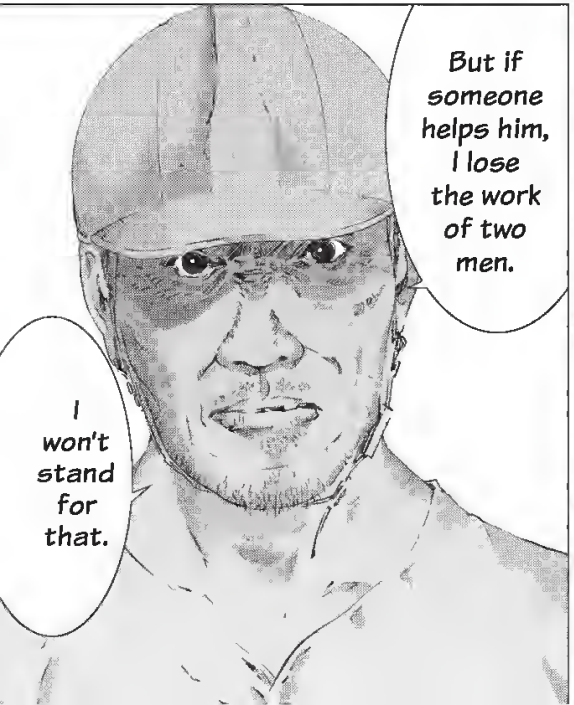

No matter how you cut it, this ain't a job for human hands, is it?
Moving shit on levers ...

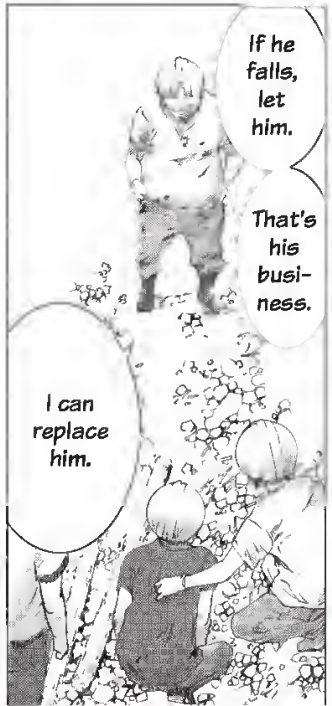

Hey ...
It's the 21st century, ain't it?
Huh ?

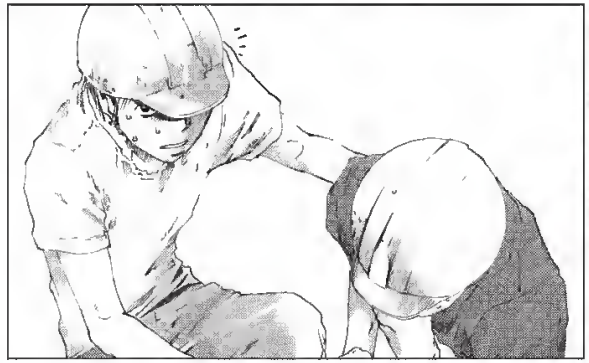
Why the fuck're we relying on levers?!
This the stone age?
This company's too stingy to pay for heavy machinery.
Haa!
T'be blunt ...

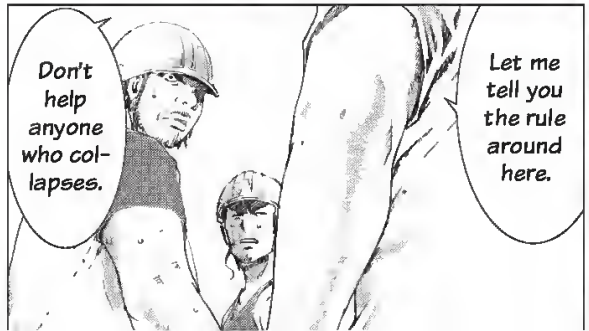
Crude oil, eh.
Crude oil's price is surging.
Oil's getting stupidly expensive this year.
I heard an economist on TV say that
the amount of money in the world economy exceeded the amount of product.
GRAKK
Aagh!
And that exorbitant excess wealth was always seeking someplace to go
which sent prices into turmoil.

That alone was the reason years of our lives were being shaved off.
So some fat pigs could get even fatter.


But if someone helps him, I lose the work of two men.
I won't stand for that.

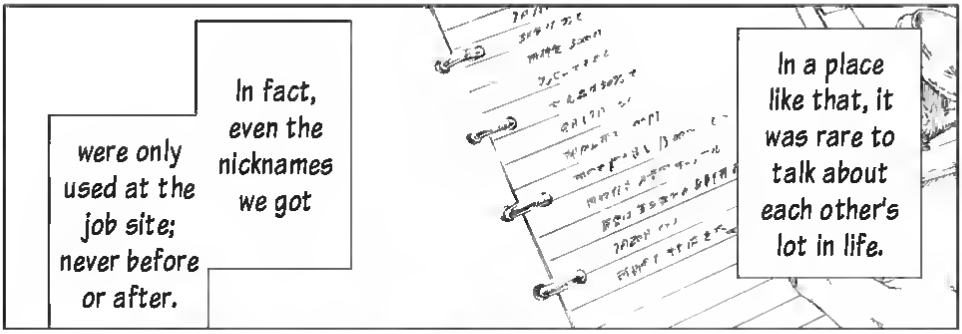

If he falls, let him.
That's his business.
I can replace him.

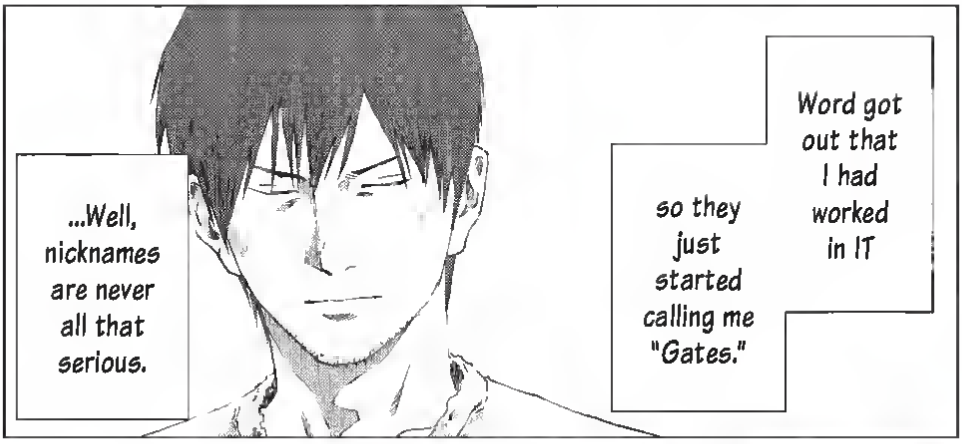


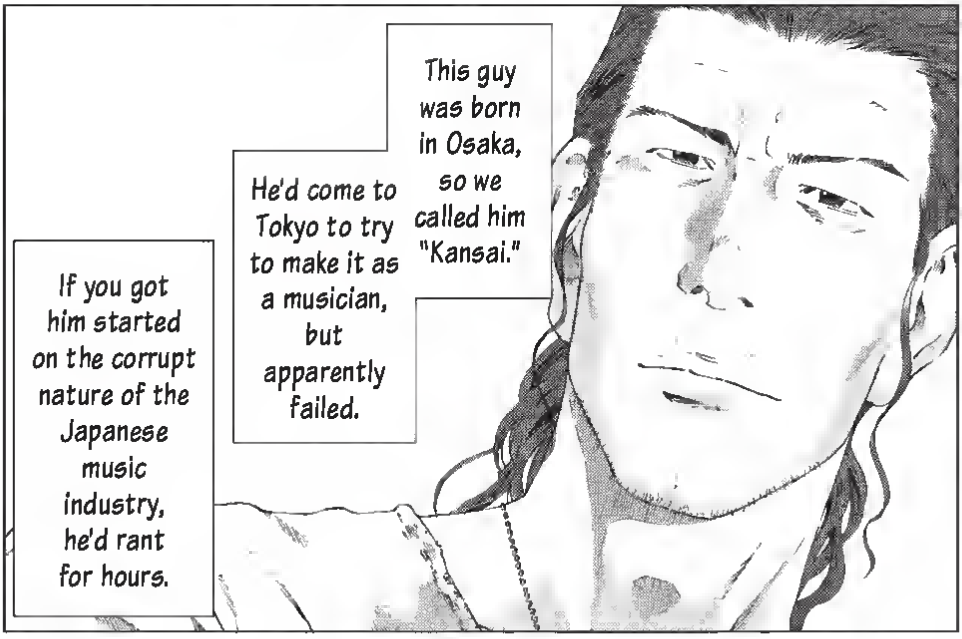

Don't help anyone who collapses.
Let me tell you the rule around here.

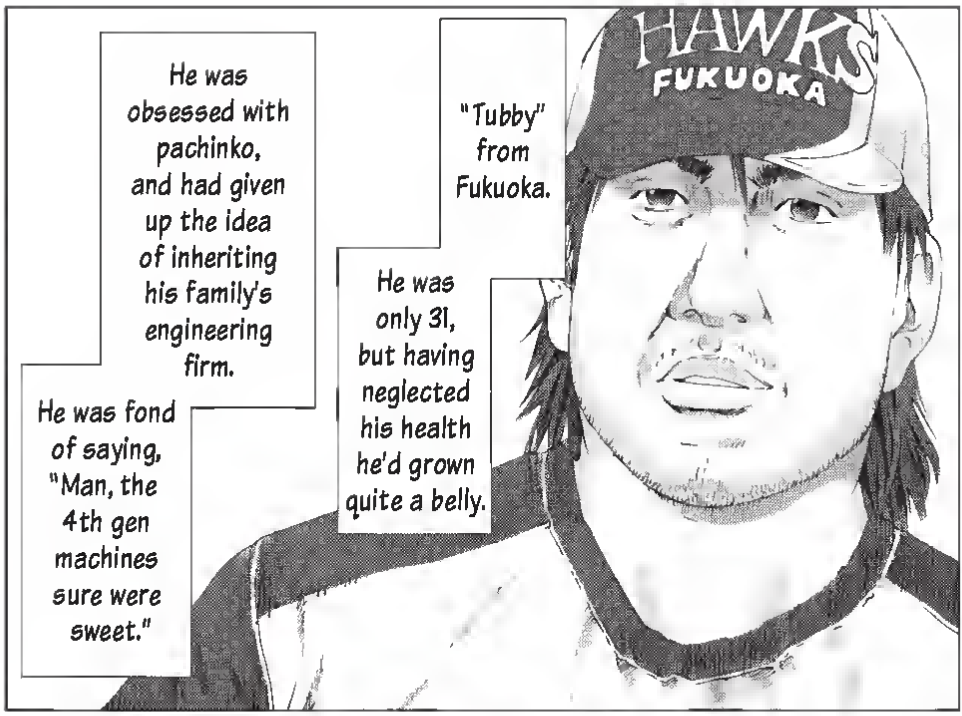
HEY, YOU!
STOP HELPING HIM!

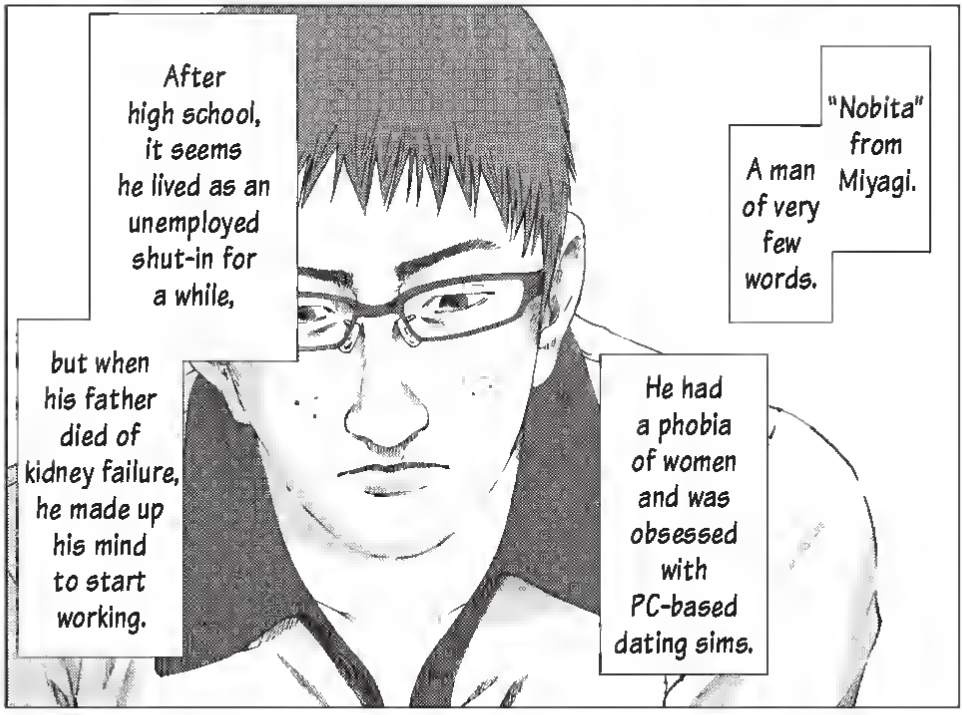
but the atmosphere in the worker's lodge certainly wasn't bad.
The day-to-day work was harsh
SOLT BA
HAW
FUKUOKA
Oh ...!
It's written on your hat.
You're from Fukuoka, aren't ya, bro?
Hm? Yeah.
Was it my accent ?
HA HA
HA HA HA
I just fuckin' love the Hawks.
Aw, man.

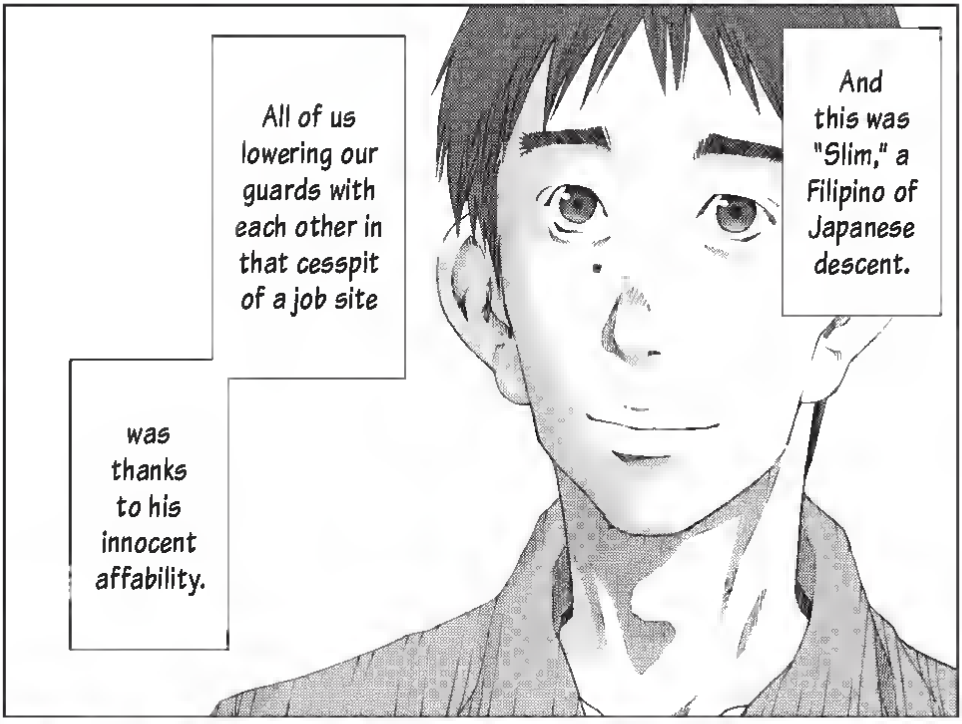

In a place like that, it was rare to talk about each other's lot in life.
In fact, even the nicknames we got were only used at the job site; never before or after.


Word got out that I had worked in IT so they just started calling me "Gates."
...Well, nicknames are never all that serious.


This guy was born in Osaka, so we called him "Kansai."
He'd come to Tokyo to try to make it as a musician, but apparently failed.
If you got him started on the corrupt nature of the Japanese music industry, he'd rant for hours.


HAWKS
FUKUOKA
"Tubby" from Fukuoka.
He was only 31, but having neglected his health he'd grown quite a belly.
He was obsessed with pachinko, and had given up the idea of inheriting his family's engineering firm.
He was fond of saying, "Man, the 4th gen machines sure were sweet."

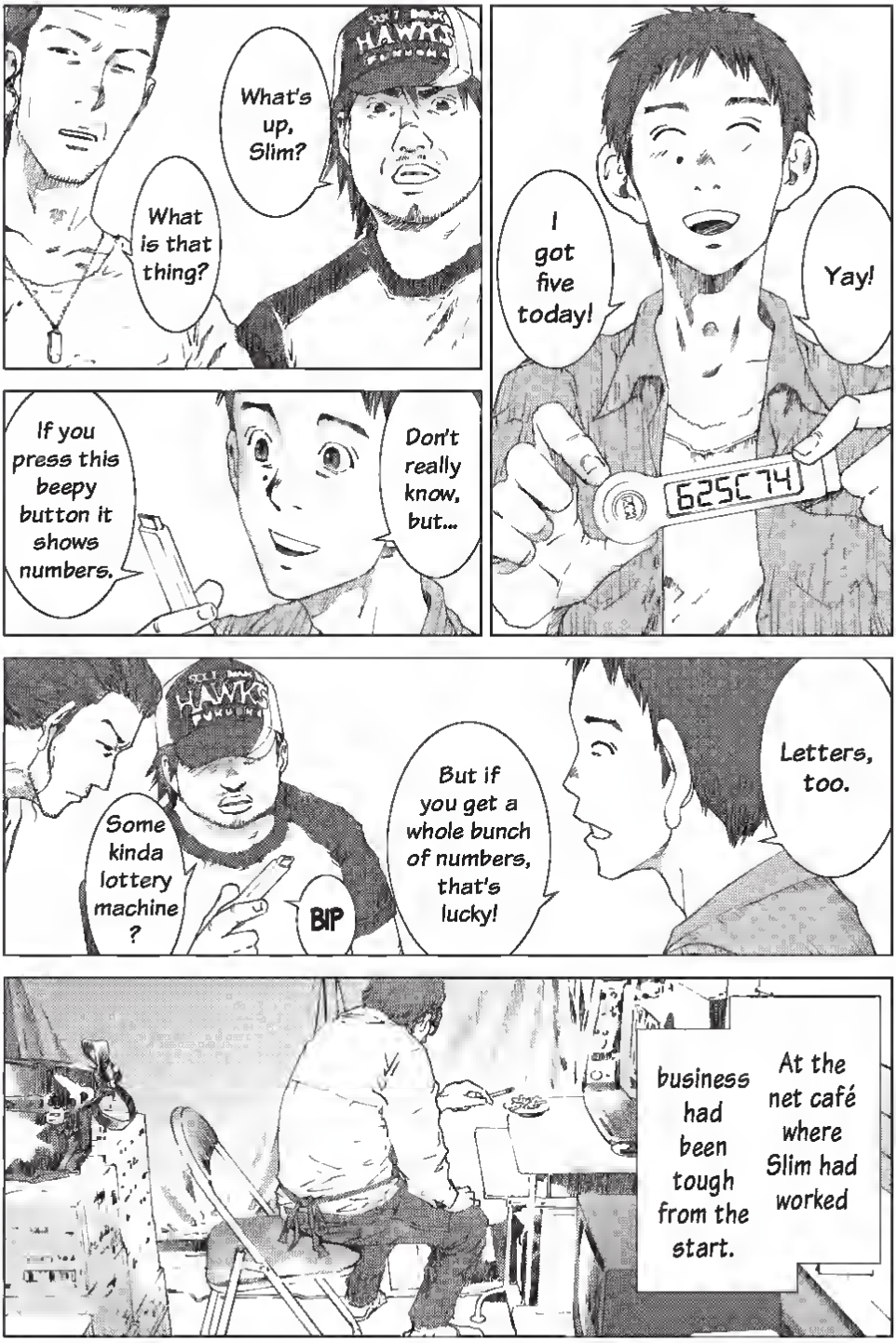

"Nobita" from Miyagi.
A man of very few words.
He had a phobia of women and was obsessed with PC-based dating sims.
After high school, it seems he lived as an unemployed shut-in for a while,
but when his father died of kidney failure, he made up his mind to start working.

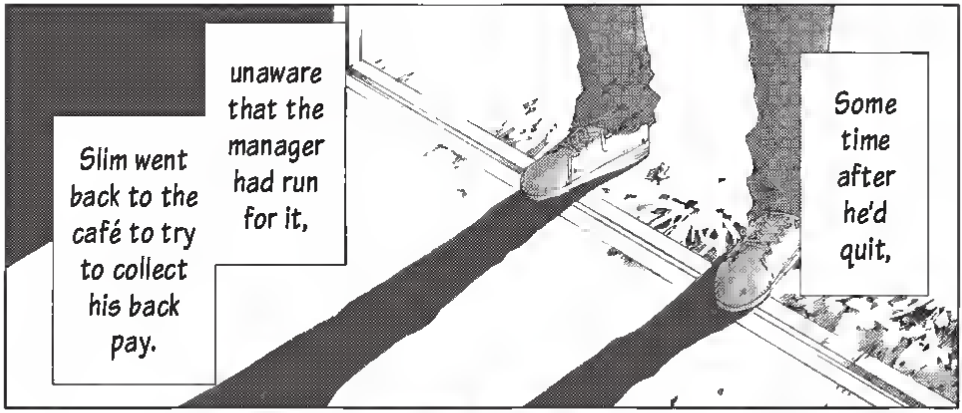

All of us lowering our guards with each other in that cesspit of a job site
was thanks to his innocent affability.
And this was "Slim," a Filipino of Japanese descent.

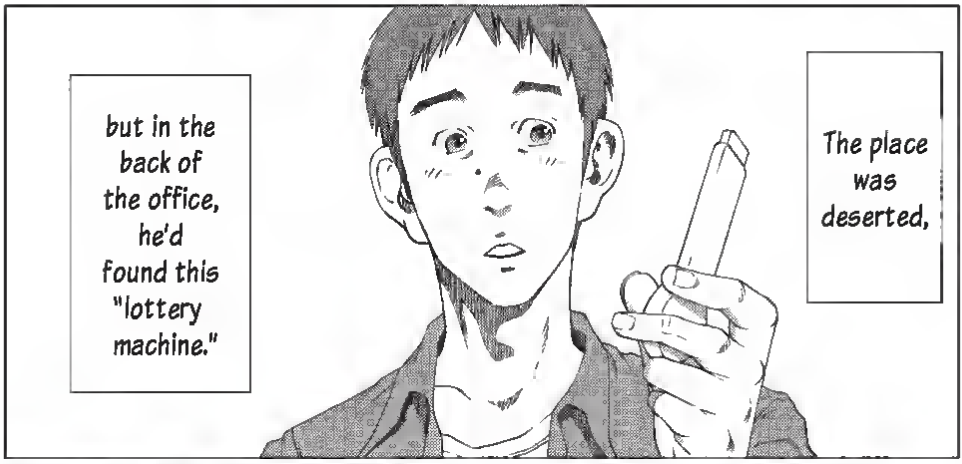
the absolute poorest area of the Philippines.
Slim had grown up in a slum named "Smokey Mountain,"

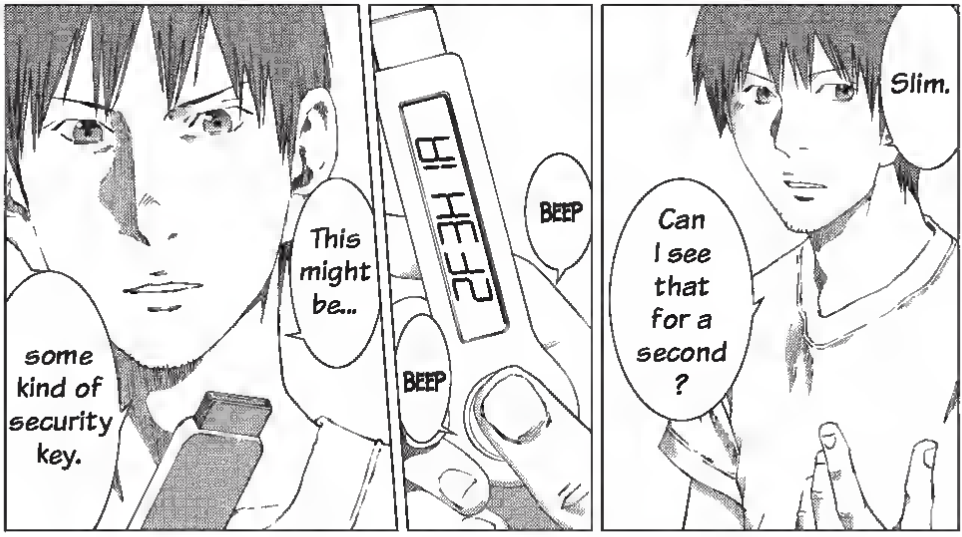
So he desperately saved up enough money to come to Japan and search for him.
Just before his mother died of illness, she'd told him his father was Japanese.

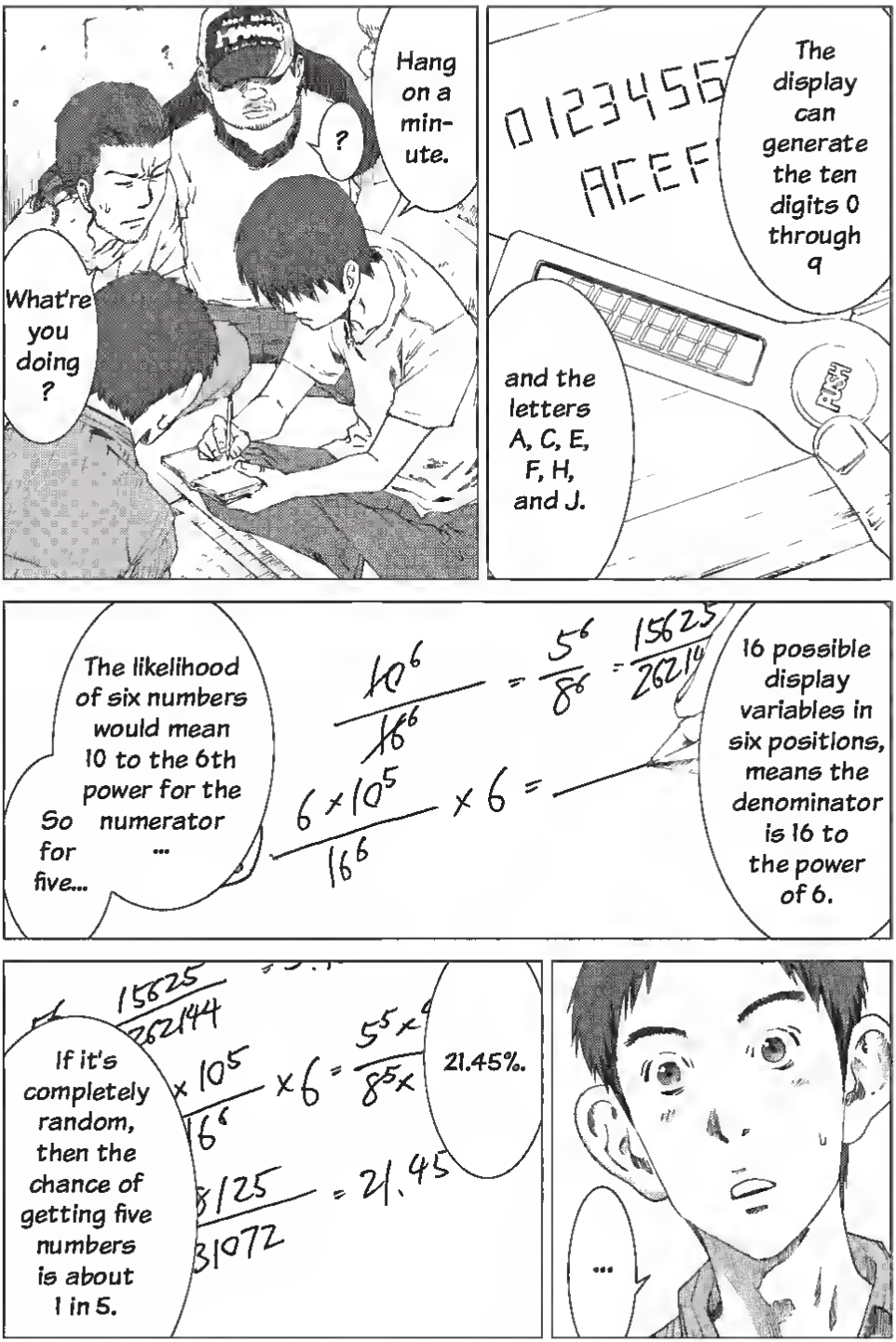
but the boss kept withholding his pay, so he ended up quitting.
Once he got here he worked for a while as a janitor in a net café in Tokyo,
but the number of places that will employ a foreigner without a work visa is limited.
Slim wasn't strong, so he wasn't cut out for physical labor,
And then the manager of the café fled one night and it went bankrupt.
but strangely I never got a sense of sorrow from the guy.
AH HA!
He'd sure seemed to have had a rough life,


What's up, Slim?
What is that thing?
I got five today!
Yay!
625C74
If you press this beepy button it shows numbers.
Don't really know, but...
Some kinda lottery machine?
BIP
But if you get a whole bunch of numbers, that's lucky!
Letters, too.
At the net café where Slim had worked
business had been tough from the start.

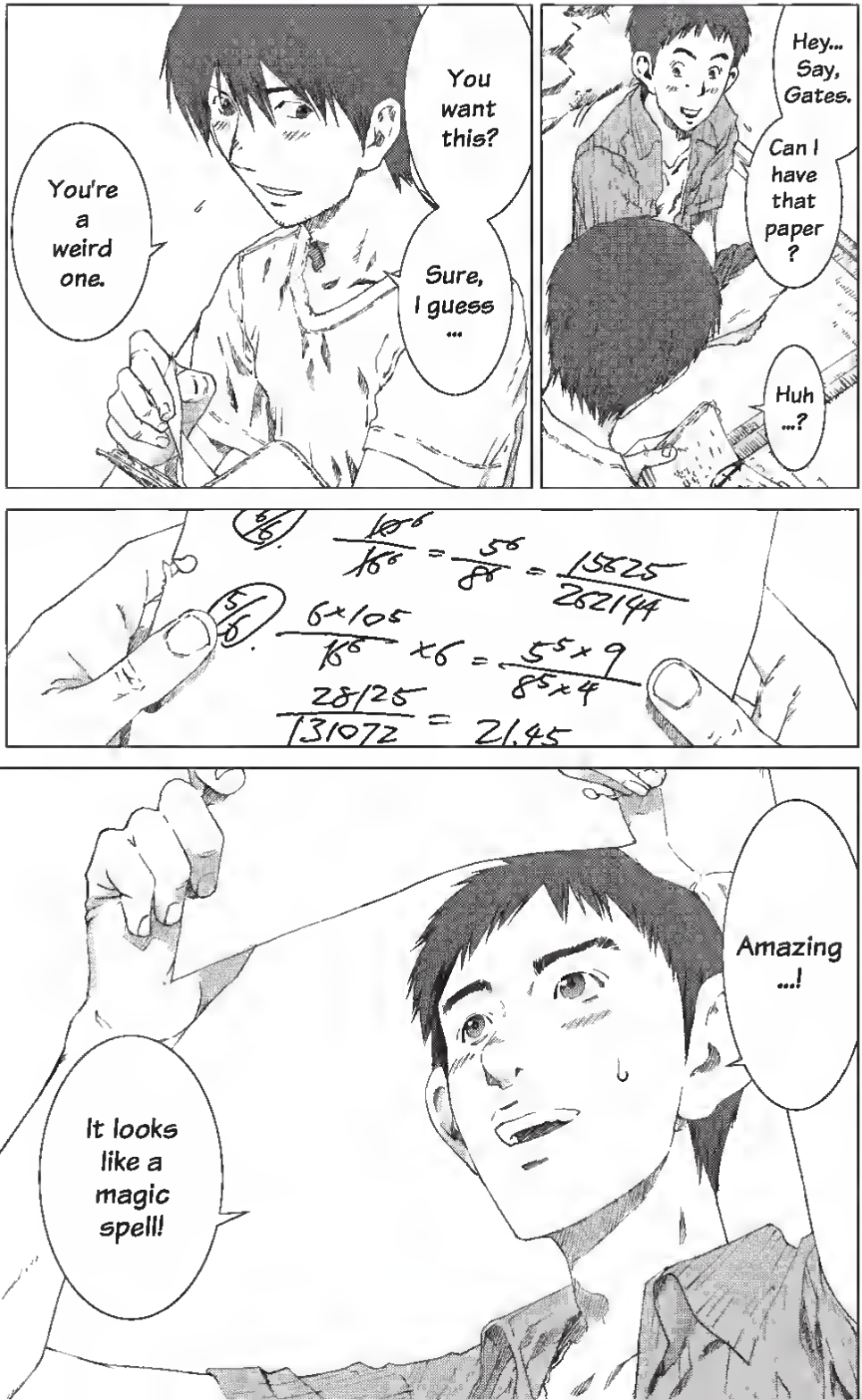

Some time after he'd quit,
unaware that the manager had run for it,
Slim went back to the café to try to collect his back pay.


The place was deserted,
but in the back of the office, he'd found this "lottery machine."


Slim.
Can I see that for a second?
BEEP
BEEP
This might be...
some kind of security key.

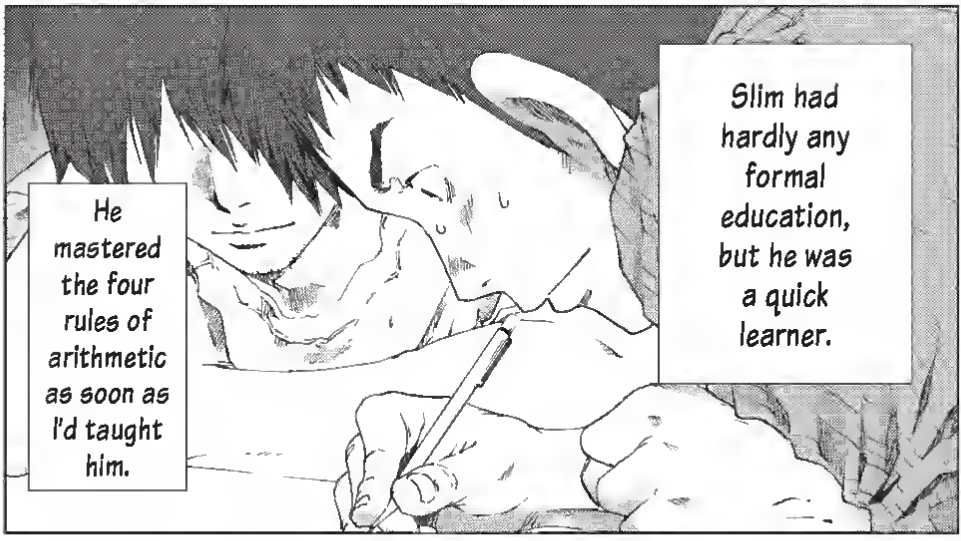

Hang on a minute.
?
What're you doing?
0123456
ACEF
The display can generate the ten digits 0 through 9
and the letters A, C, E, F, H, and J.
PUSH
The likelihood of six numbers would mean 10 to the 6th power for the numerator ...
So for five...
$\frac{10^6}{16^6} = \frac{5^6}{8^6} = \frac{15625}{262144}$
$\frac{6 \times 10^5}{16^6} \times 6 =$
16 possible display variables in six positions, means the denominator is 16 to the power of 6.
15625/262144
$\times 10^5 \times 6 = \frac{5^5 \times}{8^5 \times}$
21.45%.
If it's completely random, then the chance of getting five numbers is about 1 in 5.
...

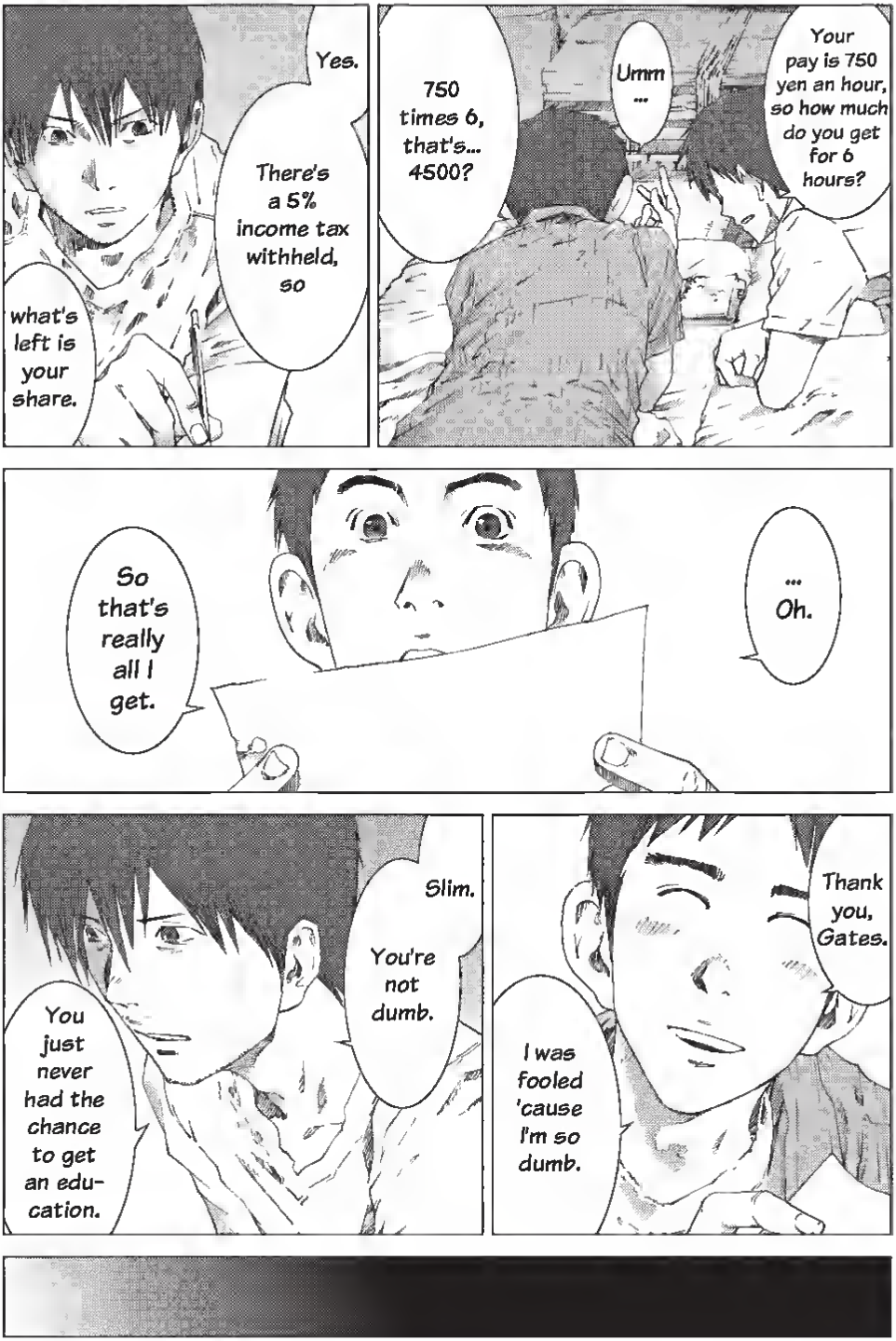
The chance of getting numbers in all six positions is 1 in 17.
The probability's not too bad.
If you try it daily, you'll get it some day.
Whoa ...!
Then I should get it about once a week, right?
But I guess I'll almost never get all numbers, huh?
That's amazing!
That's our IT man!
You did that with no calculator!
You're unreal, man.
HA HA HA
Y-Yeah, that's right ...
S-Sure ...
This is 11th grade math.
Everybody learns this, right?


You want this?
Sure, I guess ...
You're a weird one.
Hey... Say, Gates.
Can I have that paper?
Huh ...?
$\frac{5^6}{16^6} = \frac{5^6}{8^8} = \frac{15625}{262144}$
$\frac{6 \times 105}{16^6} \times 6 = \frac{5^5 \times 9}{8^5 \times 4}$
$\frac{28125}{131072} = 21.45$
Amazing ...!
It looks like a magic spell!

Gates! Teach me how to do math!
I wanna learn how to do this, too!
S-Sure ...

From that day on, I started teaching Slim in the evenings like a private tutor.


Slim had hardly any formal education, but he was a quick learner.
He mastered the four rules of arithmetic as soon as I'd taught him.


Yes.
There's a 5% income tax withheld, so
what's left is your share.
Your pay is 750 yen an hour, so how much do you get for 6 hours?
Umm ...
750 times 6, that's... 4500?
... Oh.
So that's really all I get.
Slim.
You're not dumb.
You just never had the chance to get an education.
Thank you, Gates.
I was fooled 'cause I'm so dumb.

BLAZE
Aah!
HAAA
HAAA
Hot as hell in late September.
C-Can't fuckin' believe this...
Heard it's gonna be over 85°F.
SLIM!

... Itchy ?
But I'm just so itchy... all over...
Don't push your-self.
Can't you eat any more ?
No ...
Sorry, Gates.
Slim. Could I...
have a look at your back?
Yeah ...
Itchy.
'cause I haven't had a bath...

Your kidneys are failing.
Slim, you ...
Y- Yeah. It hurts, it hurts.
Ow !
Does it hurt here ?
Kid- ney fail- ure?
Wha ...?
My dad died from bad kidneys, too.
He looked like his face was made from clay
and he got bloated and itchy all over.
Slim... do you have any ideas?
Anything that might have over- burdened your body?
Just like you are now.

No-bita ...
I'm sor-ry.
I... never told you.
To come to Japan ...
I needed... lots of money ...
So...
I... sold one.
I sold
a kidney ...

...
actually do that shit?!
Do peo-ple
S...
Sold a kidney ...?
But I've been ...
... sick ever since.
Anemic ...
Faint ...
Back... pain.
But I heard that even if you give up one kidney for a transplant, it doesn't affect your health.
That's if it's done in a proper hos-pital.
Gates.
Guess I really am dumb.
Ruin-ed my health ...
I wanted to come to Japan.
I sold my kidney.

He needs to be on dialysis in a hospital.
We can't just let him lie in a place like this.
Slim...
We're out of range here.
But how?
A hos-pitai ...?
Go get the foreman.

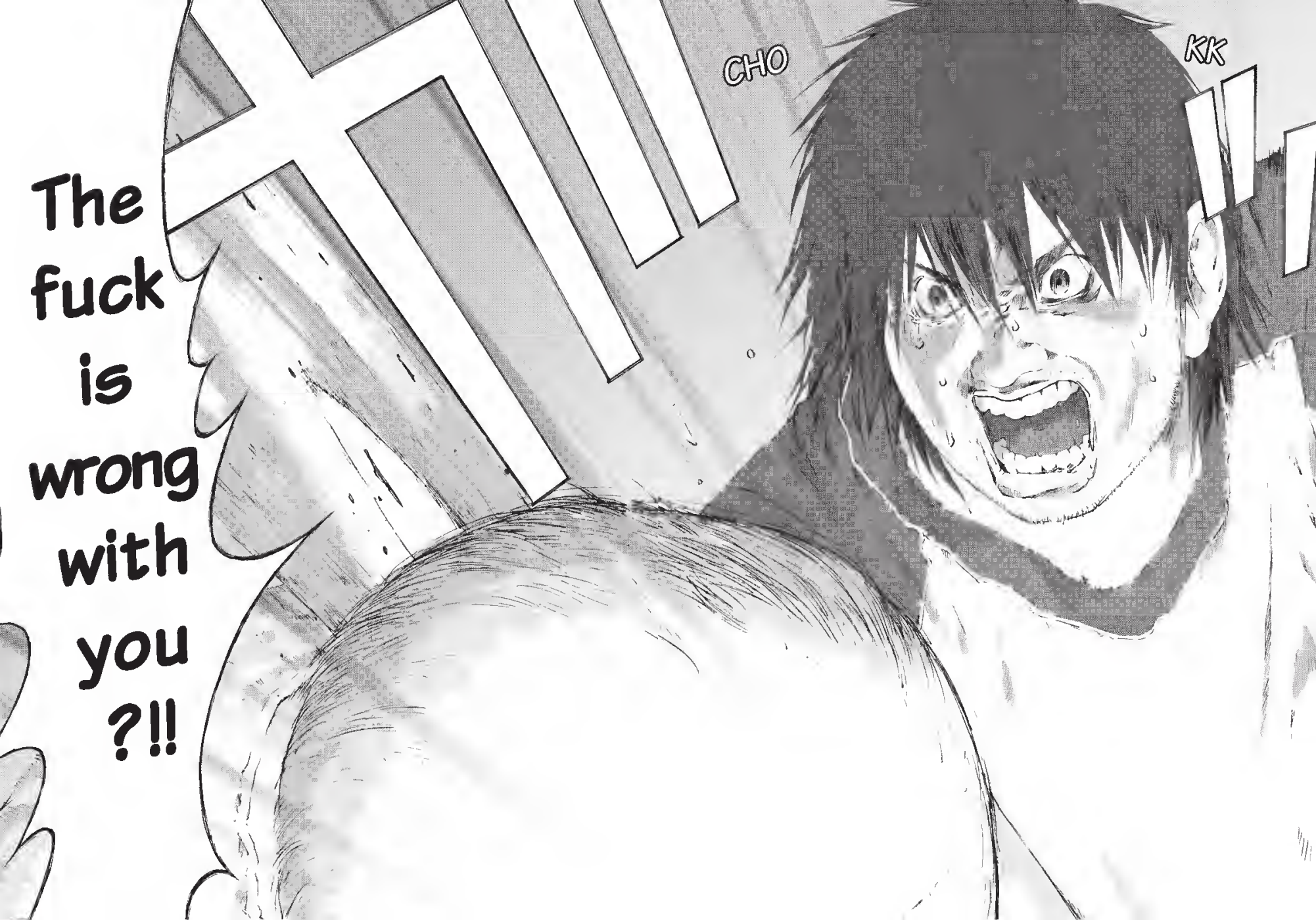
File
007

So he's dead.
... Oh.

It'll be just you four on the job 'til then.
Well, happens all the time.
I'll fill the vacancy tomor-row.
TOSS
Use this.
THW
UNK

UOKA
Hurry up and bury him,
'fore he rots.

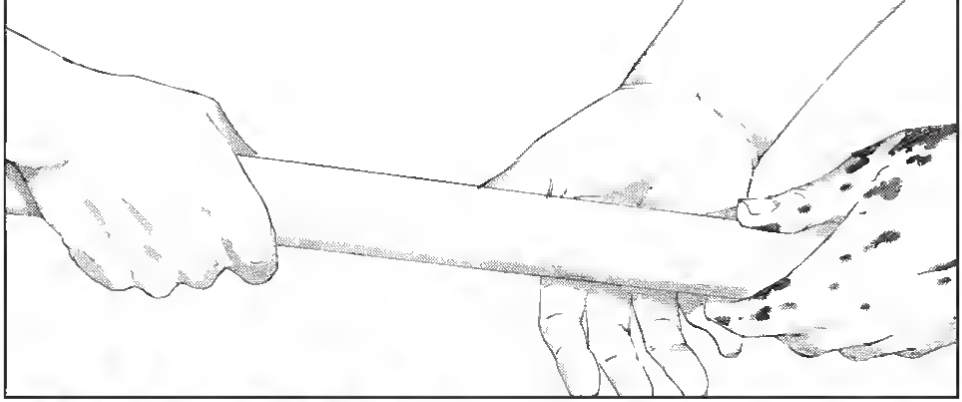
DAB
DAB
SOFT BANK
HAWKS
FUKUOKA
What's wrong?
Don't just stand there, get movin—

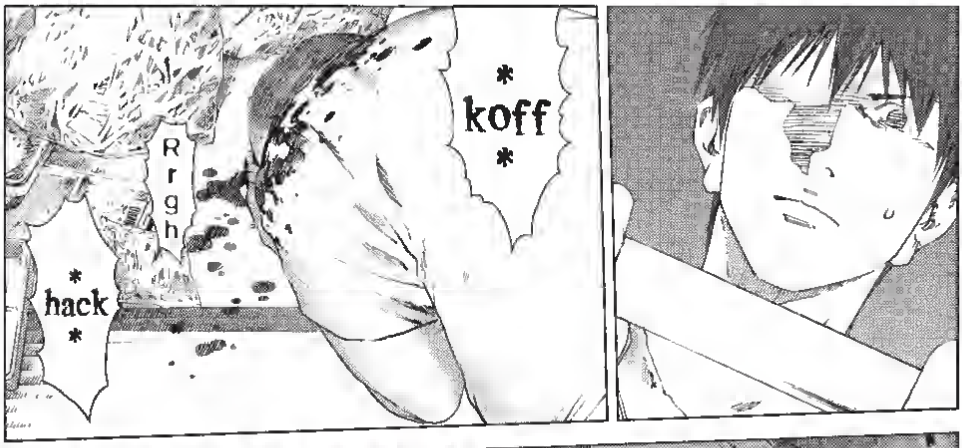

CHO
KK
The fuck is wrong with you ?!!

KR
ASH
You
...

DON'T YOU FUCKIN' STOP ME!
I'm not stop-ping you.
CATCH
Huh ?

Let me have it.
I'm not stop-ping you.

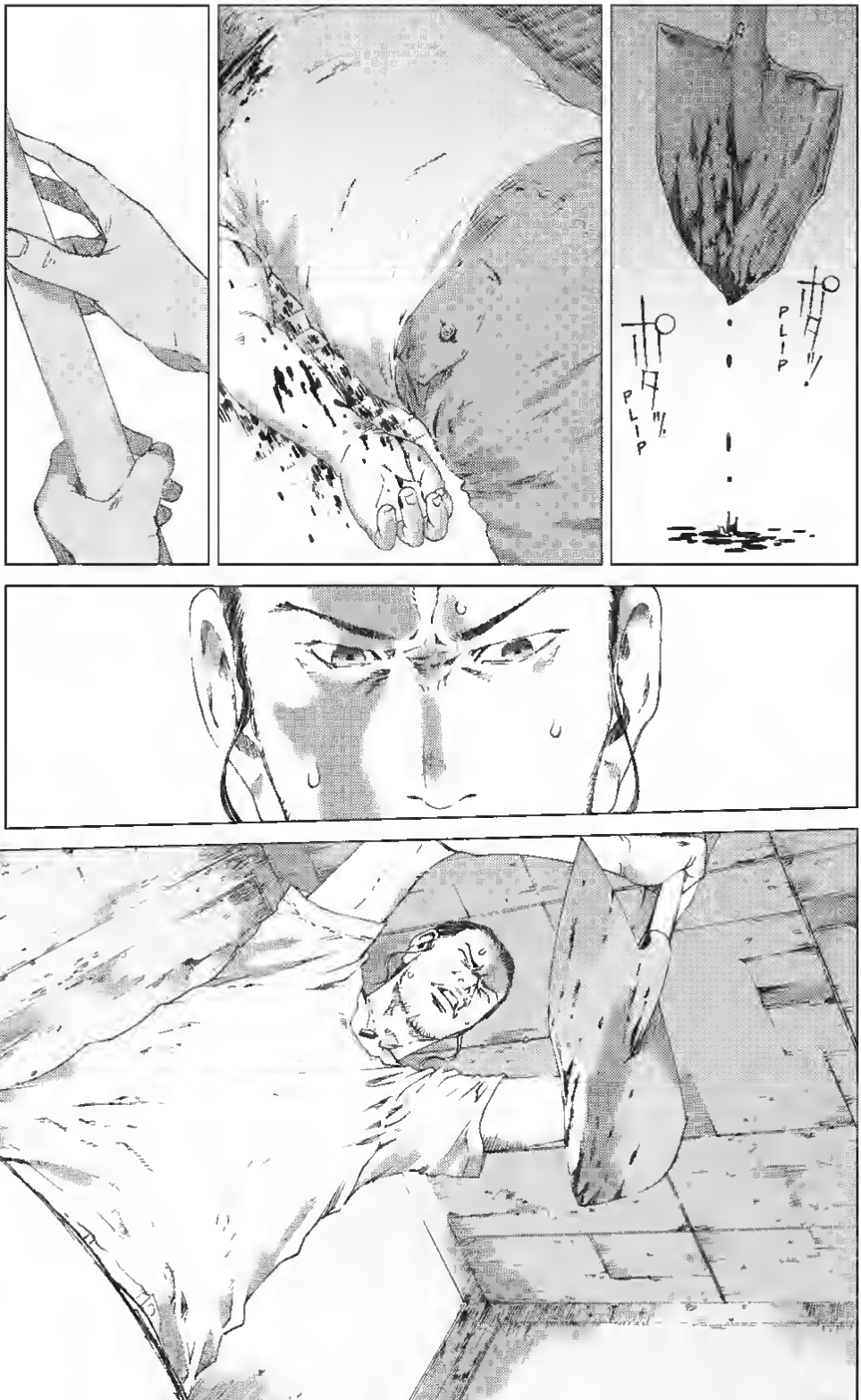


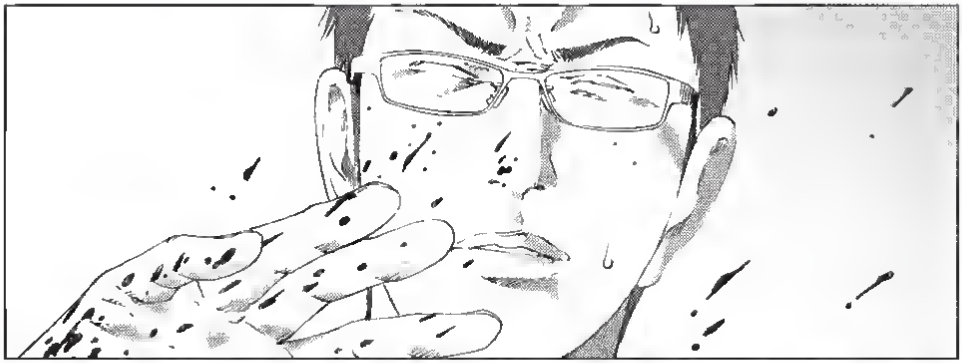

koff
Rrgh
hack

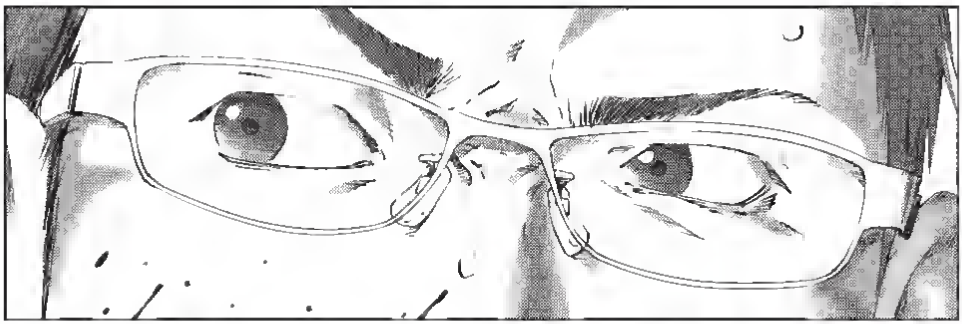
ZM
ASH

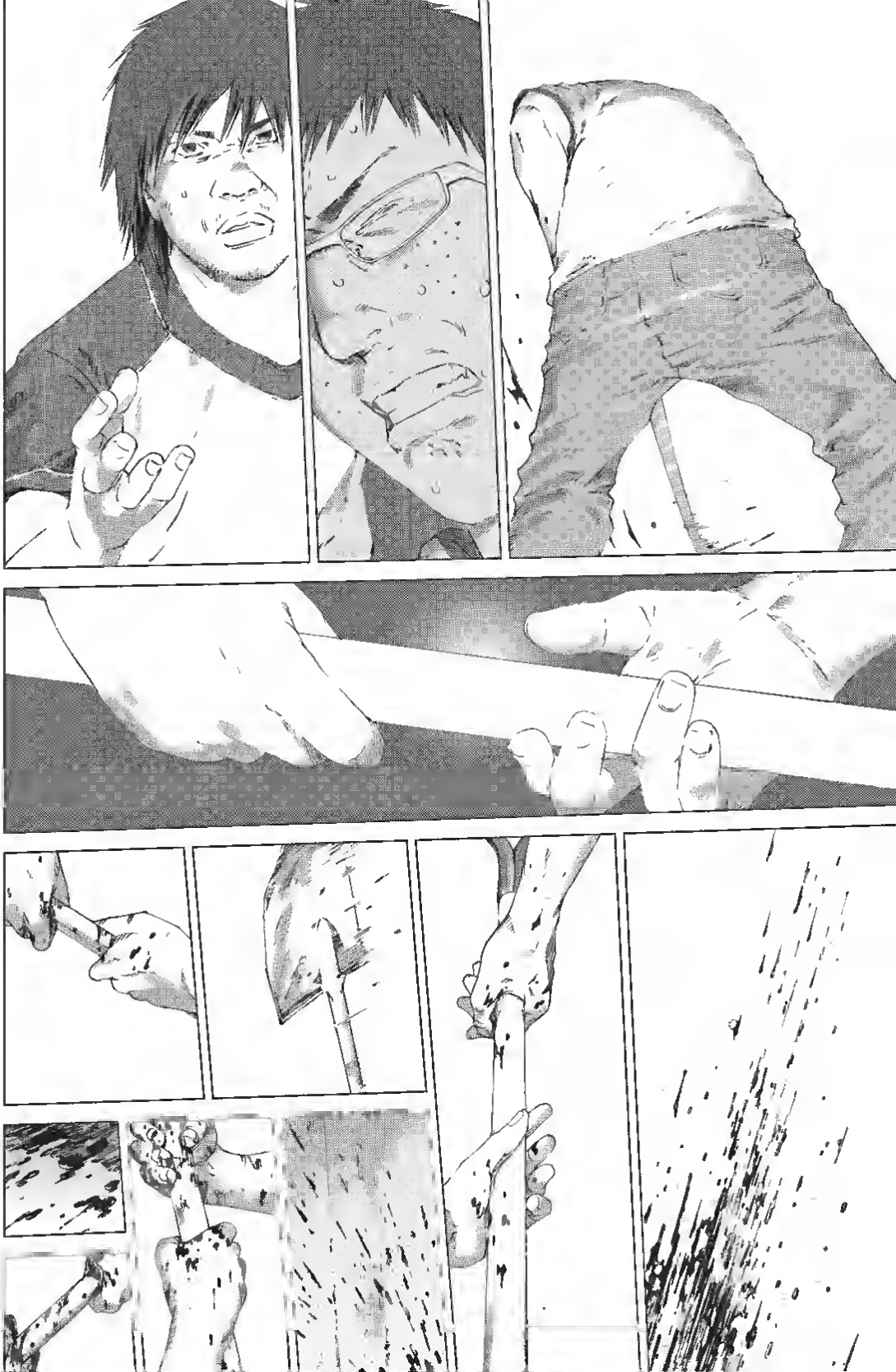
haa
haa

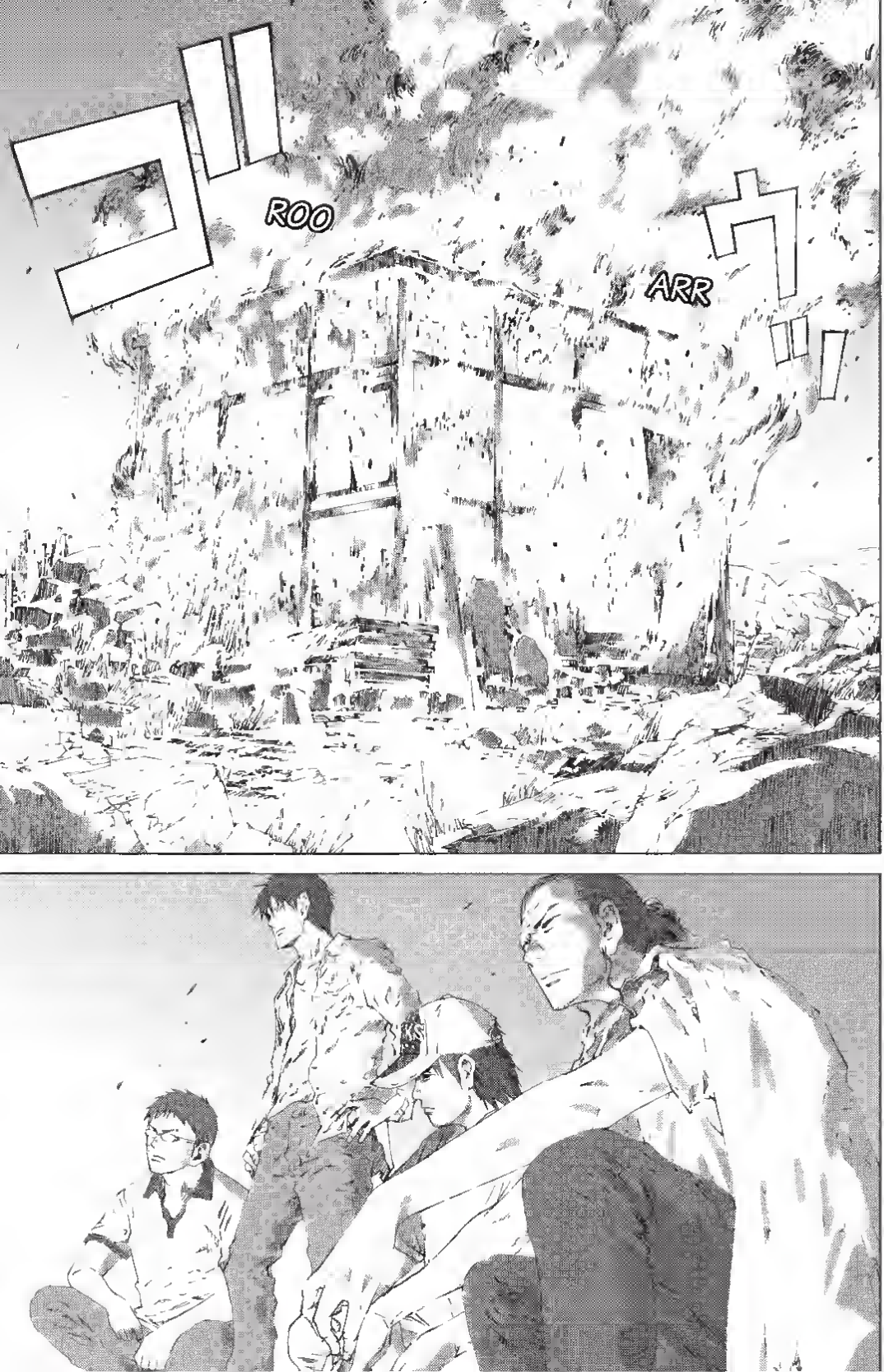
haa
haa


PLIP
PLIP





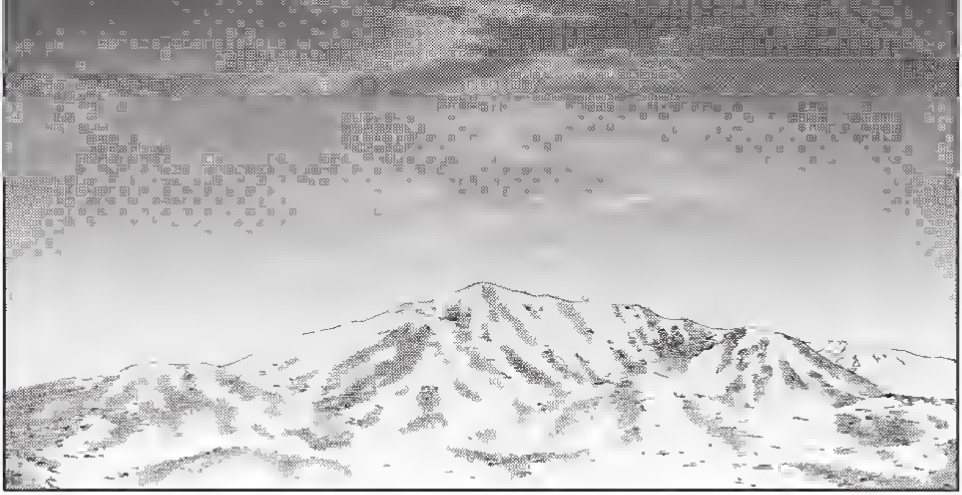



ROO
ARR

We'll get life in jail when we go back to the city.
Arson, murder. Abandonment of a corpse.
If you hadn't done it, I would have.
Forget about it.
... Sorry
I dragged you guys into this.
Over 30, at loose ends with no fixed job...
Gave up on inheriting the family business.
My life was in checkmate ever since I got hooked on pachinko anyways.

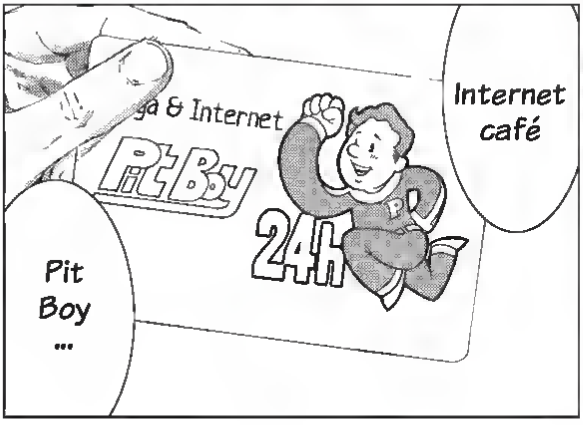
But even that's completely gone now...
to get back up again.
But even then, I'd this vague assumption that someday, somewhere, I'd get the chance
SOFT BANK HAWKS FUKUOKA
ゴゴゴ
RR
ooo
AAA
RR
What's that ?
?
snap
Ah, right.
I'll give you all some of this later.

Way back,
when i was in a band in Tokyo,
maybe it was thanks to our music being so extreme,
but we had this one seriousiy crazy suicidai groupie.
The day the band broke up
she gave me this pendant.
For real ?
I'll split it up for all of us.
With this, you're sure to croak whenever you want.
There's enough cyanide in here to kill 20 peopie.



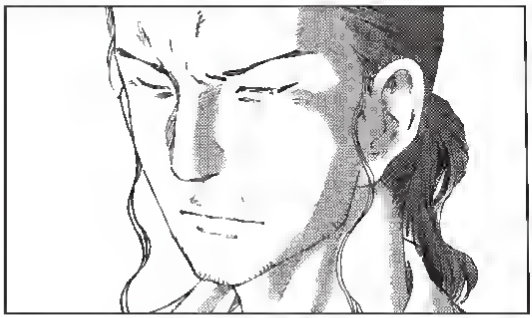
How far are we taking him?
I want him to have a place with a nice view, at least.
... Yeah.
You're right.
To the summit.

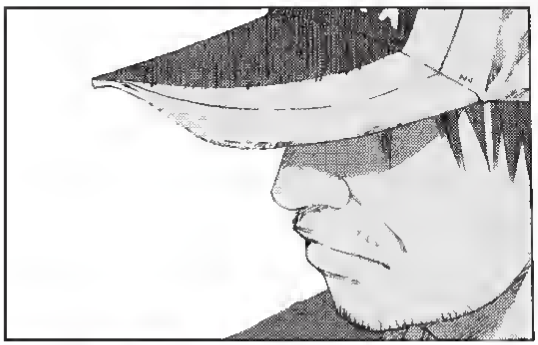
SH
INK
haa
haa
haa
haa
That hole deep enough ?
Think so.


Internet café
Pit Boy ...
& Internet
Pit Boy
24h

Ricarte.
Nelsin Kato
Authorized Signature
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte

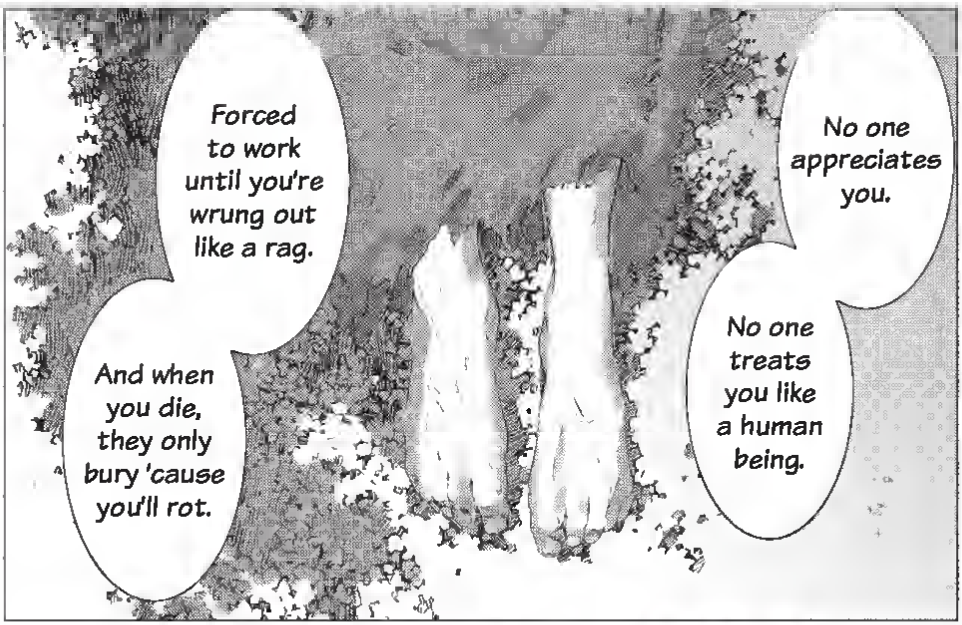
Slim.
I'm so sorry.





You sold off a kidney just to come to this country
and this is what you got. Sorry.

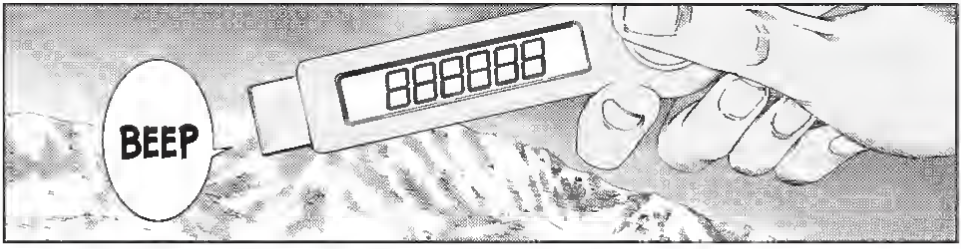
Doesn't it piss you off?
... Hey.

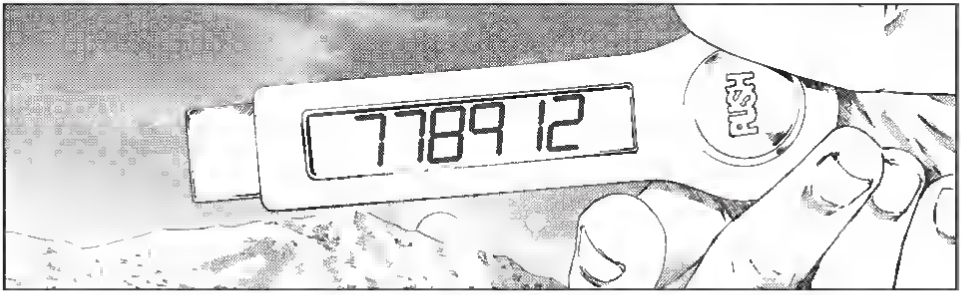

Forced to work until you're wrung out like a rag.
No one appreciates you.
No one treats you like a human being.
And when you die, they only bury 'cause you'll rot.

What are we living for?

...
What are you sayin'?
Fight back ...?
If we go back to the city now, we face life in prison.
Before that, don't you wanna try fighting back as best we can?
No job, no money, no future.
There's nothin' we can do!
... There is.

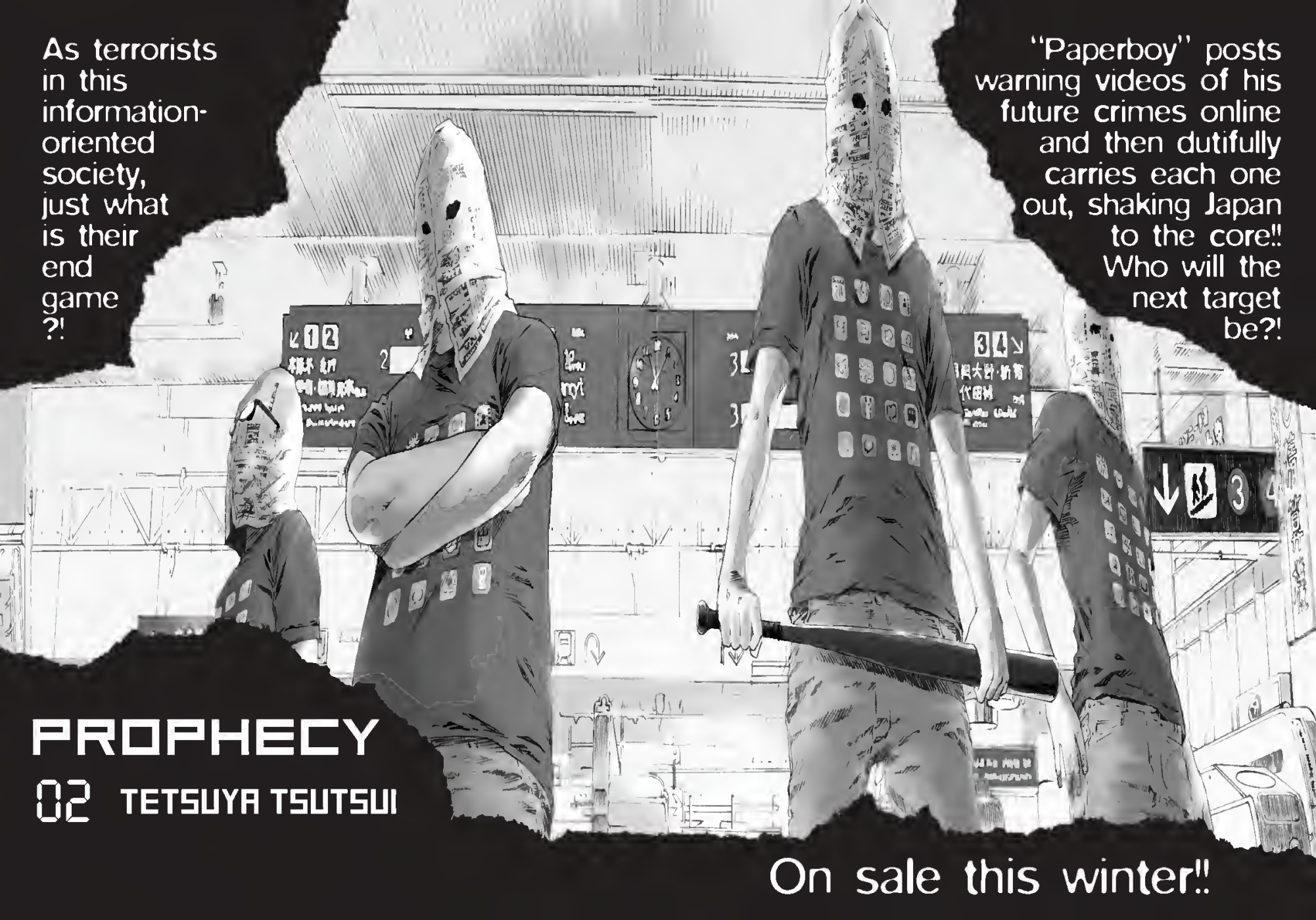
If we four band together, put our lives on the line,
there's plenty we can do.

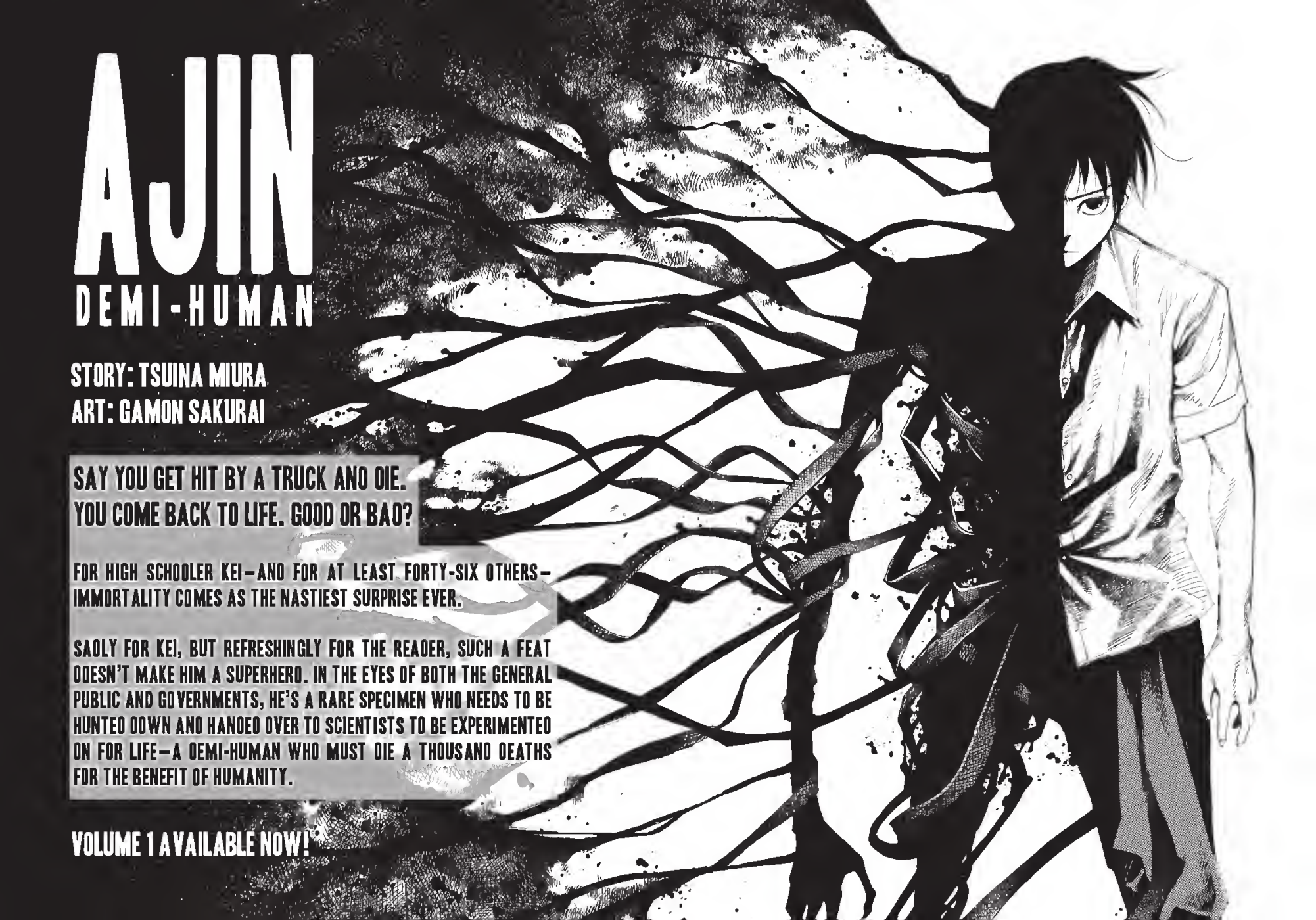

BEEP
888888


778912
FAST

I have an idea...

PROPHECY
01 END


As terrorists in this information-oriented society, just what is their end game ?!
"Paperboy" posts warning videos of his future crimes online and then dutifully carries each one out, shaking Japan to the core!! Who will the next target be?!
PROPHECY
02 TETSUYA TSUTSUI
On sale this winter!!


AJIN
DEMI-HUMAN
STORY: TSUINA MIURA
ART: GAMON SAKURAI
SAY YOU GET HIT BY A TRUCK AND DIE. YOU COME BACK TO LIFE. GOOD OR BAD?
FOR HIGH SCHOOLER KEI—AND FOR AT LEAST FORTY-SIX OTHERS—IMMORTALITY COMES AS THE NASTIEST SURPRISE EVER.
SADLY FOR KEI, BUT REFRESHINGLY FOR THE READER, SUCH A FEAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM A SUPERHERO. IN THE EYES OF BOTH THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTS, HE'S A RARE SPECIMEN WHO NEEDS TO BE HUNTED DOWN AND HANDED OVER TO SCIENTISTS TO BE EXPERIMENTED ON FOR LIFE—A DEMI-HUMAN WHO MUST DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY.
VOLUME 1 AVAILABLE NOW!

The War Begins!
So Does A Friendship!
Felipe Smith
PeeFoChoo
ALL 3 VOLUMES
AVAILABLE NOW!
FELIPE SMITH
PeeFoChoo
VOLUME 1
© Felipe Smith

Prophecy, part 1

Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Production: Grace Lu
Nicole Dochych
Anthony Quintessenza

Copyright © 2012 Tetsuya Tsutsui / Ki-oon
All rights reserved.
First published in France in 2012 by Ki-oon,
an imprint of AC Media Ltd.
English translation rights arranged through
Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.
English language version produced by Vertical, Inc.

Translation provided by Vertical, Inc., 2014
Published by Vertical Comics, an imprint of
Vertical, Inc., New York

This is a work of fiction.

eISBN: 978-1-942993-06-3

Vertical, Inc.
451 Park Avenue South
7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
www.vertical-inc.com

72%
Done 22:34 -5:04

A newspaper-masked vigilante who broadcasts his acts of vengeance before committing them. A newly-formed police division tackling the new frontier of internet-based crime. As the sun rises on the Era of Information, can a group of people who found themselves at the bottom of the food chain rattle society through the web and avenge a fallen friend?

"*Prophecy* has a very contemporary theme, concerning how the spread of social networks and the anonymity of the Internet gives rise to crime... It seems natural that adolescents and younger manga fans would feel such an affinity for this series, [as it] revolves around issues related to their way of life." —*Nippon.com*

Published by Vertical Comics

www.vertical-inc.com